Agile influence covers telecoms, aviation, agri, banks

Story on PAGE A2

3rd bombing in 2 days injures 3 in S. Cotabato

By Aquiles Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

A THIRD bombing in two days rocked a third Central Mindanao province yesterday. Three persons, including the suspected bomber, were injured when an explosive attached to a car parked out-

3RD/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

'Dirty Dozen' swamped with hate text, e-mail

By A. N. Nocum and V. Contreras

LINISAN,
LISANIN
DIRTY DOZEN!

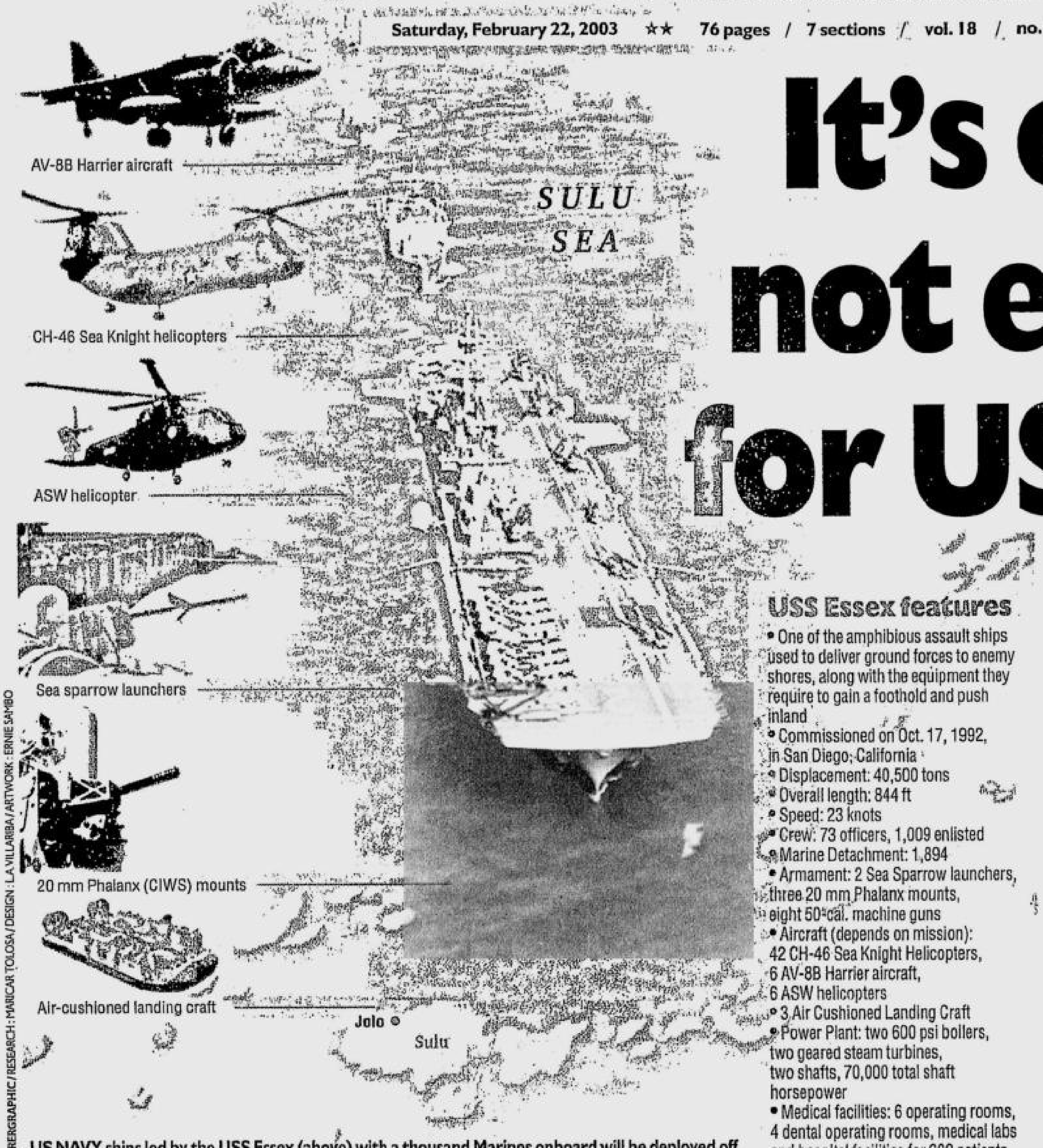
"THE DIRTY DOZEN" are being swamped with messages on their cell phones and their websites.

The objects of the

DIRTY/ A17

Saturday, February 22, 2003 ★★ 76 pages / 7 sections / vol. 18 / no. 76 P15 website: www.inq7.net

It's combat, not exercise, for US troops


AV-8B Harrier aircraft
CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters
ASW helicopter
Sea sparrow launchers
20 mm Phalanx (CIWS) mounts
Air-cushioned landing craft
SULU SEA
Jolo
Sulu

USS Essex features

- One of the amphibious assault ships used to deliver ground forces to enemy shores, along with the equipment they require to gain a foothold and push inland
- Commissioned on Oct. 17, 1992, in San Diego, California
- Displacement: 40,500 tons
- Overall length: 844 ft
- Speed: 23 knots
- Crew: 73 officers, 1,009 enlisted
- Marine Detachment: 1,894
- Armament: 2 Sea Sparrow launchers, three 20 mm Phalanx mounts, eight 50-cal. machine guns
- Aircraft (depends on mission): 42 CH-46 Sea Knight Helicopters, 6 AV-8B Harrier aircraft, 6 ASW helicopters
- 3 Air Cushioned Landing Craft
- Power Plant: two 600 psi boilers, two geared steam turbines, two shafts, 70,000 total shaft horsepower
- Medical facilities: 6 operating rooms, 4 dental operating rooms, medical labs and hospital facilities for 600 patients

US NAVY ships led by the USS Essex (above) with a thousand Marines onboard will be deployed off the coast of Sulu to respond on short notice with air power (left), logistics help and medical aid.

INQUIRERGRAPHIC / RESEARCH : MARICAR TOLOSA / DESIGN : LA VILLARIBA / ARTWORK : ERNIE SAMBO

Pentagon to deploy battleships in Sulu Sea

DESPITE Malacañang's earlier statements, American defense officials announced Thursday in Washington that hundreds of US special operations troops would soon join Philippine forces in combat operations "to disrupt and defeat the Abu Sayyaf."

The officials said the American and Philippine governments had agreed to an arrangement that would put US troops in direct combat roles for the first time since the US military began advising the Armed Forces of the Philippines in counterterrorism tactics last year.

"This is different," an official said of the offensive supposedly set to begin in March. "This is an actual combined operation, and it is US forces accompanying and actively participating in Philippine-led offensive operations."

An official said the American troops would be under US command, and that an advance military assessment team would arrive in the next few days to begin laying the groundwork for the operation.

CNN reported that while Filipino officials had not announced the operation, US officials understood that it was a "done deal."

The Philippine Constitution forbids foreign troops from engaging in an offensive while on Philippine territory. US troops taking part in the RP-US Balikatan training exercises are not allowed to fire their weapons, except in self-defense.

About 350 US special operations forces, mostly Green Berets,

IT'S COMBAT/ A16

Malacañang dismisses New York Times report

By Carlito Pablo and Martin P. Marfil

MALACAÑANG yesterday stuck to its guns and insisted that Balikatan 03-1 would merely be "a joint training exercise."

"American soldiers will not engage in offensive operations against the Abu Sayyaf," Ignacio Bunye said at a late-afternoon briefing. "They will only fire back in self-defense."

The spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo dismissed reports from US newspapers and wire agencies quoting Pentagon officials as saying that American forces were set to engage in combat alongside Filipino troops in Sulu. *(See banner story on the page.)*

"We are not concerned about what they think. I don't want to speculate on what caused this wrong information," Bunye said.

The New York Times reported Thursday that negotiations between the two countries had been going on "for months" but that the Abu Sayyaf's repeated attacks and the death of a US Green Beret in a bomb attack in Zamboanga City late last year had prompted Ms Macapagal and US Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld to agree on the

MALACAÑANG/ A16

Texan general to call the shots in Balikatan 03-1

By Carlito Pablo and Maricar Tolosa, *PDI Research*

WEBER: American Marine to the core.

THE MAN who will be in charge of the American forces participating in the Balikatan 03-1 in Sulu and Zamboanga City is a Texan like US President George W. Bush.

Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Weber assumed command of the US 3rd Marine Division based in Okinawa, Japan in the middle of last year and got

TEXAN/ A16

Pimentel cries treason: Reyes should explain

By Cynthia D. Balana and Christine O. Avendaño

SEN. Aquilino Pimentel yesterday accused Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes of treason for turning the Philippines into a "deadly laboratory for the testing of the effectiveness of US troops, tactics and weaponry against so-called terrorists in Moroland."

"Now the cat is officially out of the bag," Pimentel said, referring to US reports quoting Pentagon officials. *(See banner story)*

The senator accused Reyes of conspiring with the US military on the matter and added: "I say this is treason in its basest form because he is subverting the Constitution by militarizing the policy-making process even in relation to the maintenance of law and order and the establishment of peace in the country, which the legislature [is mandated] to decide."

Pimentel and other senators said Reyes should be called back to the Senate by the oversight committee on the Visiting Forces Agreement and be made to explain the supposed planned participation of US troops in actual combat against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu.

PIMENTEL/ A16

Sin: Stop war in Mindanao and Iraq

By Armand Nocum

STOP war.

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin yesterday called for "genuine reform" and human development programs in Mindanao to stop the war there.

Referring to both the war in Mindanao and the looming US-led war against Iraq, Sin said: "We must not be resigned as though war is inevitable . . . We must never lose hope. We must never give up the path to peace and unity."

"War cannot generate peace. War will only beget more violence, hatred and sorrow," Sin said in his homily during a prayer rally for peace at the Edsa Shrine yesterday afternoon.

Sin called for "honest dialog, solidarity between states and the noble exercise of diplomacy" to attain peace.

SIN/ A18

US:150,000 forces ready to attack Iraq any time

KENNESAW, Georgia—The United States declared on Thursday it had massed a big enough force in the Gulf to attack Iraq at any time and senior US officials said Washington would seek UN approval next week for a possible war.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Public Television's "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" that the military build-up in the Gulf had reached the point where US and British forces were now ready to invade Iraq if the order was given.

"I would characterize it as ample," Rumsfeld said of the force of tens of thousands of US and British troops massed in the area. "We are at a point

US/ A18

FOR
WORLD
PEACE
FOR
WORLD
PEACE

OUR Lady of Peace looks upon a valley of advocates for peace in Mindanao and Iraq during a Mass cum rally at the Edsa Shrine on Friday led by Cardinal Sin and the Papal Nuncio. About 3,000 demonstrators asked President Bush to resolve Iraq issue through diplomacy. REUTERS

Memories hurting; folks can't go home

By Lullie Micabalo
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DIPOLOG CITY—Elizabeth Acolbe doesn't want to go home to Tubod, Kalawit town.

The massacre last Wednesday night, which left 14 persons dead and 10 others injured, killed all three of her children and wounded her husband critically.

One memory in particular haunts her: the sight of the dead body of her son, Rufino Jr., embracing his younger brother and sister, in the act of protecting them.

Other residents are afraid the armed men might come back. The military suspects the men were Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels, but the MILF has

MEMORIES/ A16

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FrontPage

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/22/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Agile clout said to span telecoms, aviation, agri

By Cynthia D. Balana, Christine Avendano and Volt Contreras

THE REPORTED United States-funded lobby group Accelerating Growth, Investment and Liberalization with Equity (Agile) had influence over areas ranging from telecommunications and civil aviation to agriculture and fisheries, various sources said yesterday.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said Agile is an active player in the struggle between the country's telecommunications companies and the American giants, AT&T and MCI Worldcom over toll rates.

In addition, he said, Agile has a strong presence in the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) whose officials are currently negotiating with their US counterparts in Washington, D.C. on the "Open Skies" policy covered by the 1982 US-RP Air Treaty.

Arroyo is chair of the Senate committee on public services, which has jurisdiction over all matters affecting public services and utilities, communications, transportation and the grant or amendment of legislative franchises.

Leftist groups, meanwhile, tagged Agile as "one of the culprits in the agriculture sector's downturn," saying the program was behind the passage of laws that advanced trade liberalization policies to the detriment of the country's agriculture and fisheries sectors.

At the House of Representatives, Rep. Aniceto Saludo (Southern Leyte) sought the closure of Agile's offices in key government agencies for "security reasons."

Saludo had exposed Agile in a privilege speech for allegedly interfering with and manipulating Philippine policy and law making.

He alleged that Agile was part of a conspiracy to railroad the bill that seeks to restructure the Bureau of Internal Revenue. He said Agile agents are "spies manipulating economic policies that are working against us."

Arroyo said that while the country's telecommunications firms Bayantel, Digitel, Globe, PLDT and Smart compete with one another locally, they have banded together against the two American giants.

'Subservience'

Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III said Agile could also be behind the pressure on the telecommunications industry into "subservience" to US firms over telephone rates.

Arroyo noted that Agile has planted an office right in the office of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) which is hearing the dispute.

In the case of the "Open Skies" policy, Arroyo said that Philippine carriers have vehemently opposed this while US carriers were pushing for its approval considering the subsidy it was getting from the US government.

Arroyo said that last year, the Philippines lost 4.5 landing slots earmarked for the Philippines in the Narita Airport offered by Japan Civil Aviation because of CAB's negligence.

Also at the CAB recommendation, he said, a non-existent, non-operating airline without a single aircraft (CLA) was granted the status of a Philippine flag carrier for cargo by the President of the Philippines.

For this, a Senate finance sub-committee has cut the budget of the CAB by 60 percent.

Disturbing presence

Arroyo also said that Agile has an office in Securities and Exchange Commission and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. SEC, BSP and the Insurance Commission form the triumvirate that comprises the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) in the Philippines.

Arroyo said that the presence of Agile in practically all layers of the executive branch was disturbing.

"In the communist system, there is a political officer in each office so that there would be no deviation in a particular office from the communist line," Arroyo said.

"In the Philippines, there seems to be parallel Agile officer in each key office to avoid a deviation from US policy," he added.

Agile's influence in agriculture can be seen in legislative measures that made the country's food and agriculture policies "tailor fit with World Trade Organization agreements, with the US as prime beneficiary," according to Anakpawis chair Rafael Mariano.

One of these was the Plant Variety Protection Act of 2002 which, Mariano said, strengthened the control of agrochemical transnational companies over the marketing of high-yield seeds.

He said Agile also lobbied for Rice Trade Liberalization bills which calls for the removal of quantitative restrictions on rice imports and the privatization of the National Food Authority.

Since 1998, DAI-Agile had been maintaining an office at the Department of Agriculture, under the Monitoring and Monitoring Service division, he said.

Fernando Hicap of Pamalakaya said DAI-Agile was also behind a $10-million program on integrated coastal resource management that led to the declaration of "fish sanctuaries" in Mindanao, Central Visayas and Northern Luzon since 2001.

DAI's "lobbying" among local government councils had resulted in the passage of ordinances creating marine sanctuaries in the name of "eco-tourism," he said.

But Hicap saw "a sinister scheme" behind such efforts. He warned that after such sanctuaries have been declared, the "next step" would be to offer them as resort development sites for big corporations which in turn would arouse suspicions that they were among DAI's "clients."

The groups called for the termination of all contracts and agreements the government have with DAI-Agile, and the closure of all its offices from the country.

Consumer group hits Meralco claim as PPA collector

THE National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms (Nasecore) yesterday castigated the Manila Electric Co. for distorting the issue of the purchased power adjustment (PPA) charge in claiming that it was just a collector of the cost-recovery mechanism appearing in consumers' monthly electricity bills.

Nasecore President Pete Ilagan pointed out the big discrepancy in the proportion of the PPA proceeds that went to the state-run National Power Corp. and Meralco.

Of the P2.75 per kilowatt-hour PPA charge, only 40 centavos went to the Napocor while the rest went to Meralco's own independent power producers, Ilagan said in a statement.

"Napocor has 35 IPPs and Meralco has only three. Why this big discrepancy?" he asked.

Ilagan said that Meralco had apparently contracted generating capacities more than the actual demand for electricity.

If so, the utility should accept the financial consequences of its business decision instead of passing on the burden to consumers, he said.

Early this week, Malacañang called on Meralco to reduce its PPA charge as a counterpart measure for the government's move to renegotiate its own contracts with IPPs.

Meralco president Jesus Francisco said the utility welcomed the proposal, claiming that whatever changes in electricity prices on the power-generating side would naturally be reflected in the PPA charged by Meralco.

NEWSBRIEFS

RP medics' bus attacked

RIYADH—A bus carrying mainly Filipino and Egyptian doctors and nurses was hit by gunfire in an attack in the northern Saudi city of Hail, the Arab News daily reported yesterday.

An unidentified gunman opened fire as the bus, with 14 medical personnel on board, was heading to a housing compound in the early hours of Wednesday.

Fareehan al-Shammary, head of the Rayyan Al-Sharq Polyclinic, said he could think of no motive for the attack and the gunman did not seem to have targeted any particular individual. *AFP*

Cargo ship sinks off Japan

TOKYO—Two Filipinos and two South Koreans were missing Friday after their ship capsized in rough seas off a remote Japanese island, while all 12 other crew members were rescued, the Japan Coast Guard said.

The coast guard mobilized a rescue ship and airplane after receiving a distress signal early Thursday from the Panamanian-registered cargo boat, Pendora, carrying 16 crewmembers and more than 2,000 logs.

"The airplane found the ship belly-up some 140 kms off Nita Daito island," on Japan's southernmost prefecture Okinawa, said Masayoshi Iramina, a spokesman for the local coast guard.

An iron-ore cargo ship cruising nearby rescued 12 Filipinos drifting on an emergency raft.

"We are still looking for the remaining crew—two Filipinos and two South Koreans," Iramina said, adding that two boats and two airplanes were now involved in the search. *AFP*

GMA names new PSG head

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's close-in security chief was named the new Presidential Security Group head. Army Col. Delfin Bangit replaced Brig. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, who has been promoted to Armed Forces deputy chief of staff for operations.

During turnover rites at the Malacañang Park yesterday, Bangit described his new post as a "culmination of a dream."

Prior to his appointment, Bangit was the commander of the Presidential Escorts, the PSG unit that provides close-in security to members of the First Family.

He has been in Ms Macapagal's security detail since 1998, when she was elected vice president.

Bangit is a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class '78.

The AFP chief of staff Gen. Dionisio Santiago presided over the simple rites in which the President's younger son Diosdado "Dato" Macapagal represented his mother. *Dona Pazzibugan*

Pinay held for Japan slay

TOKYO—Japanese police yesterday arrested a 33-year-old Filipino woman on suspicion of killing a Japanese man and dumping his body in the mountain.

Emelinda Montilla Sato, a housewife in Niigata, 250 kms north of Tokyo, allegedly stabbed Yoshihiro Naito, a 39-year-old welder, to death in her car on Feb. 14, a police official said.

His body was discovered in the mountain by a local resident three days later, the official said.

"The two were acquaintances. She was a bar hostess and he frequented her bar," he said, adding police had found a knife believed to be used as the weapon in her house.

"We are investigating her motive," the police official said. *AFP*

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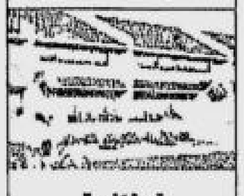

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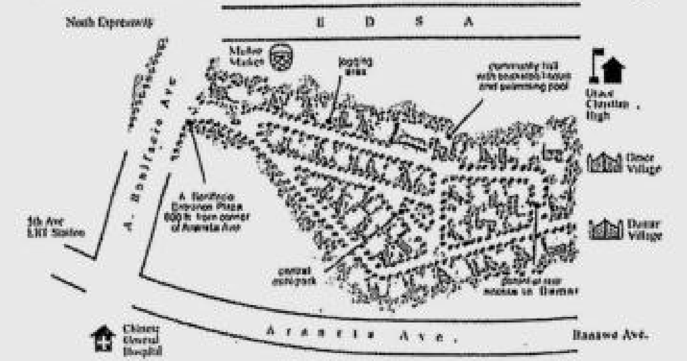

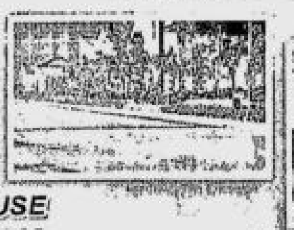

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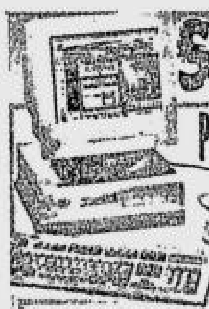

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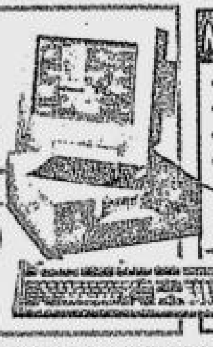

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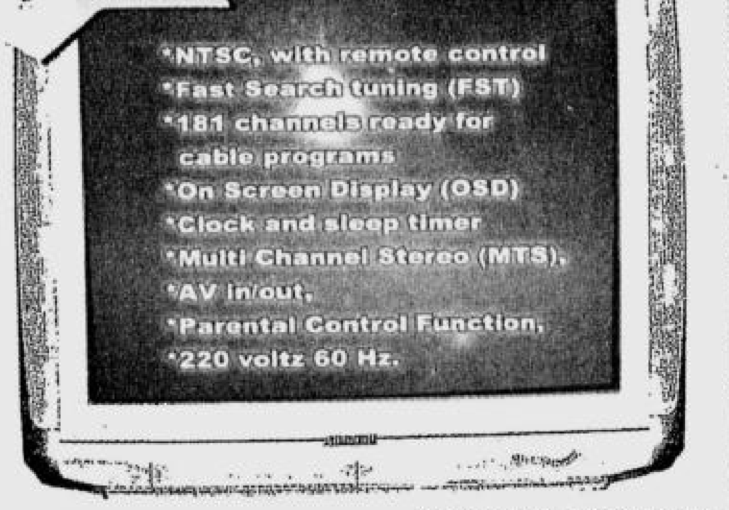

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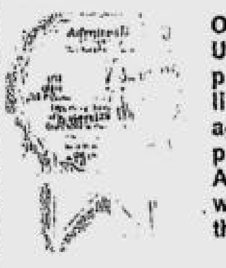

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Ople to Reds: Let's talk peace, then let's remove terror tag

COMMUNIST guerrillas waging a decades-long war against the government will cease to be listed as a terrorist organization once there is substantial progress toward peace, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said yesterday.

"This interdiction by the international community will not be reviewed unless the (communist movement) shows good faith in the negotiations, they return to the peace table and there is substantial progress made in the negotiations," Ople said.

"That's the only time we will consider reviewing the terror tag" on the Communist Party of the Philippines, its 9,000-member New People's Army, and Utrecht-based CPP founder Jose Maria Sison, Ople told reporters.

Communist leaders this week rebuffed President Macapagal-Arroyo's efforts to resume peace negotiations.

They told a government peace mission to their Netherlands exile base that efforts toward a political settlement could not move forward while the US and other Western governments treated the insurgents as "terrorists."

The government actively campaigned to have the rebel group declared a terrorist organization by Western governments last year to cut off its foreign funding sources.

The President had sent the negotiators to Utrecht to sound out the rebel leadership on resuming peace talks, which Ms Macapagal had suspended in mid-2001 after the NPA assassinated two legislators.

The government team also sought a "unilateral suspension of offensive military operations by both sides during the duration of the formal talks," which the rebels also rejected.

From his Netherlands exile, Sison said it was not clear when the two sides might sit down again.

"They (government negotiators) basically issued an ultimatum," he said.

"They demanded that the NDF accept what they called a final peace accord. What they demanded was capitulation," Sison said.

In a phone interview from Utrecht, Luis Jalandoni, the NDF's chief negotiator, demanded the delisting as terrorists and the dropping of murder charges against Sison as a condition for resuming the talks.

Jalandoni said the government negotiators, Silvestre Bello III and Silvestre Afable, met with him and other NDF leaders on Tuesday and Thursday but that they only gave a six-month "ultimatum" to the NDF to sign a final peace settlement and disband the NPA.

"Mr. Afable presented four points briefly, including the terms of (our) surrender and the six-month ultimatum to finish everything," he said.

He said the NDF asked that the terrorist listing be corrected as this constituted the surrender to foreign governments of Philippine jurisdiction over the armed conflict. *AFP, Reuters and Juliet L. Javellana*

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SC upholds tabloid's right to 'pernicious' opinion

By Michael Lim Ubac

UPHOLDING the constitutionally guaranteed right to freedom of speech and expression, the Supreme Court yesterday cleared officers of a tabloid newspaper who had been sued for libel for publishing an article that allegedly portrayed Muslims as pig-worshippers.

The high court, voting 10 to 5, reversed an appellate court decision ordering the prosecution of the officers of the "Bulgar" daily.

The Court of Appeals division which ruled against Bulgar officers Mars Laconsay, Myla Aguja and Agustino Binegas Jr. also got what amounted to a scolding from the Supreme Court.

"Under the right to free speech, there is no such thing as a false idea. However pernicious an opinion may seem, we depend for its correction not on the conscience of judges and juries but on the competition of other ideas," the high court said.

The SC reinstated and affirmed the decision of the Manila Branch 4 trial court which had dismissed the libel suit of the Islamic Da'Wah Council of the Philippines, Inc. and five other individuals.

The suit stemmed from an article published by the tabloid on Aug. 1, 1992, which claimed that Muslims don't eat pork or any meat from animals, which they worship and consider sacred.

In upholding Bulgar, the SC cited several United States jurisprudence and the First Amendment of the US Constitution to prove that the article was covered by the doctrine of free speech.

As for the claim for damages of the complainant, the high court noted that US courts were reluctant to adopt a rule of recovery for emotional harm.

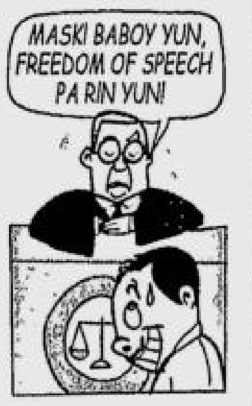
The court said doing so would "open up a wide vista of litigation in the field of bad manners, an area in which 'toughening of the mental hide' was thought to be a more appropriate remedy."

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. led nine other justices in supporting the majority decision penned by Senior Associate Justice Josue N. Belosillo.

Those who dissented were Associate Justices Artemio Panganiban, Antonio Carpio, Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez, Conchita Carpio-Morales and Adolfo Azcuna.

The complainants argued that the article referring to the pig as a god of the Muslims "was not only published out of sheer ignorance but with intent to hurt feelings, cast insult and disparage the Muslims and Islam as a religion in this country."

They said the article violated the law, public policy, good morals and human relations.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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2003

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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On the spot

EDITORIAL

THE UNITED STATES is deepening its military entanglement in Mindanao from what was once an "advisory" capacity. In the next few weeks, 1,700 combat troops will be deployed in Sulu to fight the Abu Sayyaf. This contingent is larger than the 1,300 US Special Forces troops that participated in the joint Philippines-US Balikatan exercises for six months last year.

This new deployment changes qualitatively the US military involvement. Unlike in the first Balikatan, where US troops stayed in the rear and in the headquarters of Philippine troops, the new exercises will see American soldiers conducting or supporting combat patrols in Sulu in forward positions, that will draw them into the fight with the Abu Sayyaf.

Also, the venue has shifted from Basilan to Sulu, where the Abu Sayyaf bands regrouped after one of their leaders, the flamboyant Abu Sabaya, was killed in an encounter last year with Filipino troops aided by US military technology.

This new combat deployment puts the involvement of US troops in the Philippines beyond the pale of the original terms of engagement (TOR), which forbade US troops from directly fighting with the Abu Sayyaf, unless they were fired upon. As such the deployment becomes highly controversial, largely because it not only violates the previous TOR but it also contravenes a constitutional ban on the use of foreign troops.

This wider engagement of US troops is certain to fuel nationalist resentment and create more problems for the Macapagal administration in securing wider public support for US President George W. Bush's war policy on Iraq. What makes the deployment more offensive is that negotiations had been taking place without much transparency between Manila and Washington.

The negotiations on the US combat mission were intensified after the rise of Abu Sayyaf attacks last October, including the bombing of a bar in Zamboanga City, in which an American soldier was killed. But the Filipino people were kept in the dark about the details.

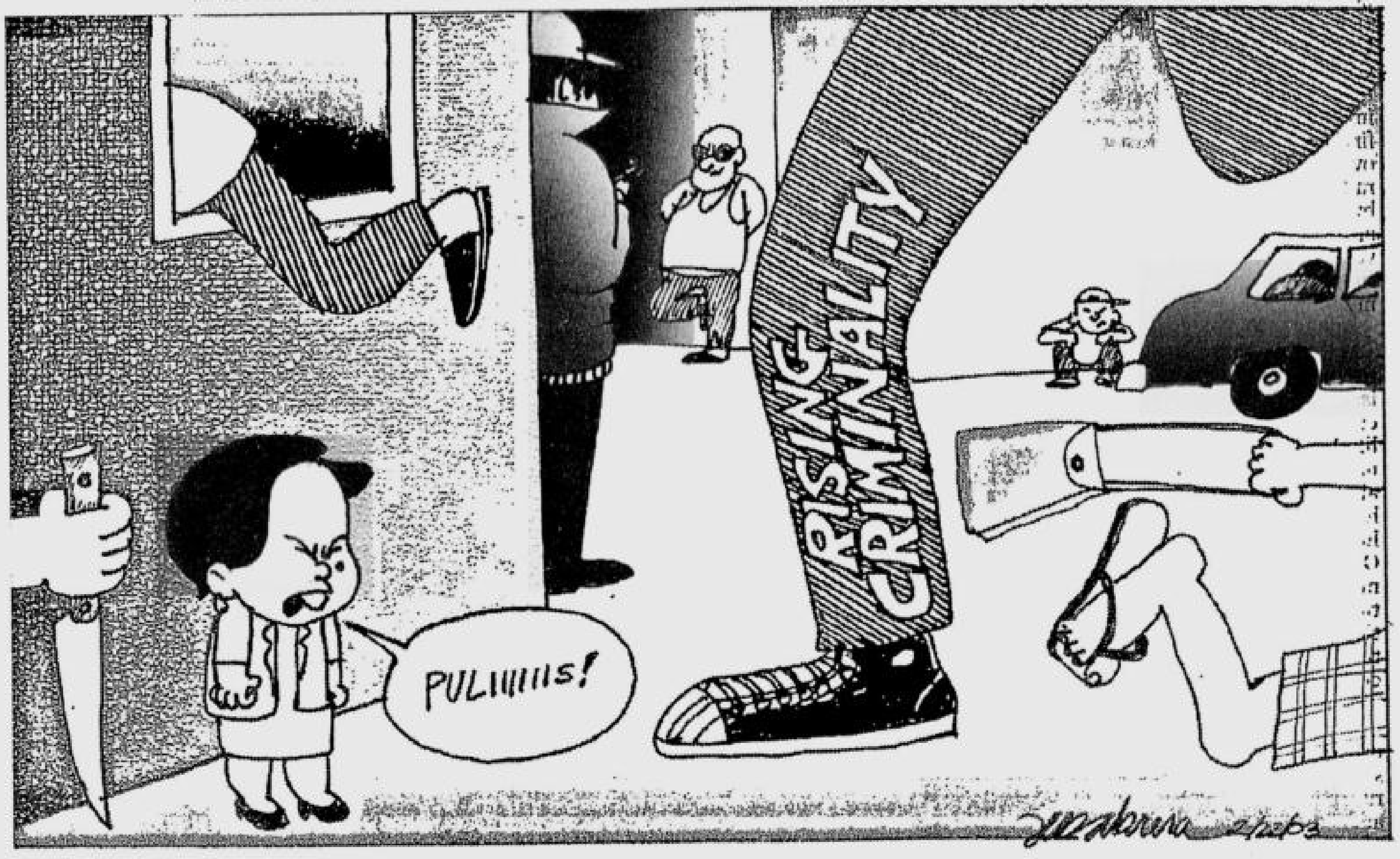
The mission in Sulu is not unconnected with the American military build-up for an imminent war with Iraq. The US government has tagged the Abu Sayyaf as a terrorist organization with links to al-Qaida, which Washington has blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States. As the United States steps up the tempo of war, it is also trying to protect its flanks in areas where there are suspected terrorist networks and to show that it has the capacity to quell smaller terrorist attacks in countries peripheral to the main front in Iraq.

This new deployment puts the Macapagal administration on the spot. It will be difficult for the administration to justify US combat engagement in Philippine security problems, in violation of previous terms of reference and the constitutional ban on deployment of foreign troops for combat duties.

The administration's unqualified backing of President Bush's pressure on Iraq to disarm, with threat of military action, has widened the gulf between the government's position and that of Philippine public opinion which is aligned with the worldwide anti-war protest. Thus, as the Macapagal administration falls behind Bush's bellicose war policy and allows the Philippines to be an active combat zone in the war against terrorism, the more it becomes alienated from the Filipino people.

The new deployment is reported to have also been an expression of the United States' disappointment over the failure of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to "disrupt and destroy" the Abu Sayyaf. If we go by the United States' record in Afghanistan, the US-led coalition toppled the Taliban regime, thanks also to the help of the Northern Alliance, but it did not kill Osama bin Laden and did not completely crush the al-Qaida network there, despite the overwhelming deployment of US military power and technology.

In the Basilan campaign last year, the AFP did a good job of putting the Abu Sayyaf on the run and killing Abu Sabaya. That experience told us that given hi-tech equipment and facilities and training from American advisers, Filipino troops can do the job. What we are seeing here is a US military engaging in too much muscle-flexing.



Happy birthday to George Washington

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IN CASE the Amboys of my generation have forgotten, today is the birth anniversary of George Washington, hero of the American Revolution and the first President of the United States. As pupils of the educational system introduced in this country by the Thomasites, we were taught the greatness of this man, who was placed over and above Jose Rizal, our own national hero, by the new imperialist ruler.

Rizal was by far more accomplished in the arts and sciences than Washington as our own multi-faceted genius demonstrated during his brief lifetime. He was a doctor of medicine, an accomplished writer, spoke several languages including English, a biologist, a sculptor, a sportsman and even a ladies' man, among many other talents. Washington was only a surveyor and as far as is known was a proper gentleman who married a widow.

Washington was catapulted to national prominence when he led the American patriots in the revolution against Great Britain. The commander in chief's imposing figure, coupled with the stern discipline he imposed on his ragtag army, inspired the men under him to keep up their uneven struggle against the mighty empire on which the sun never set. Eventually assisted by the French and Spanish forces, the Americans finally routed the enemy under Lord Cornwallis in 1781 and "the world turned upside down."

Washington's impressive war record made him the logical choice to chair the Philadelphia Convention of 1787 that drafted the Constitution of the United States. That body included many outstanding lawyers but they all deferred to his leadership that served as a catalyst of diverse and conflicting opinions. After campaigning for the ratification of the document by the separate states, he was elected President of the United States in 1789 and reelected in 1792. He retired in 1797 after declining a third term and died two years later at the age of 69.

Many of us still remember the story of young George cutting down a cherry tree and later bravely confessing his sin to his father. We accepted that charming anecdote as Gospel truth although we were to regard it later as one of the effective PR gimmicks during that less deceptive era. Publicists did not manufacture virtues then. Little was said, for example, of Washington's intellectual prowess, which was dwarfed by the brilliance of his contemporaries in politics like Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. He did show much wisdom, though, in bringing them into his inner circle as his trusted advisers on the art of government.

Comparing Washington with some of his counterparts in the government of our own country, I find that some of them could have benefited in following the example he set as the "Father of His Country." Americans are right in venerating his memory. In his many years of public service, he set a proud record unblemished by abuse of authority, arrogance and extravagance, pettiness or vindictiveness, immorality, and even a hint or suspicion of corruption.

Many of our Presidents have at one time or another manifested some of these shortcomings and dishonored the high office entrusted to them by the electorate. One of them is right now under detention on such unseemly charges as plunder of public funds, forgery and bribery. Another tried underhandedly to amend the Constitution to extend his term of office. Two of them were puppets of the United States and a third has allied with it against the preponderant opposition of our people. Worst of all was Marcos, who suppressed individual liberties, spirited billions of dollars of public funds into secret bank accounts abroad, and made the national treasury a milking cow for his family and friends.

Rizal offered a sterling example of leadership they could have followed for he was a man of unyielding fortitude and resoluteness in his endeavor to set his country free. He was indeed a man to emulate. He could have been an excellent President of the Philippines had he lived during our time. Eschewing violence, he preferred the weapon of words to resist the Spanish oppression although, in the end, it was in the hail of bullets that he achieved martyrdom and greatness.

If the Amboys among us did not choose to follow Rizal because he was just local and not Stateside, I recommend to them their Great White Father in the person of George Washington. Although he was an American and somewhat autocratic and stern, he was a pretty nice guy and had a good head on his shoulders. He is still idolized by many of his countrymen who are really regular fellows at heart although arrogant at times and rather vulgar.

Washington might be a substitute model for those among us who dismiss our local heroes as not noble enough because homegrown like Marikina shoes. Shame on them for disdaining our own patriots in favor of their imported counterparts. Washington himself would have been turned off by these miserable Amboys whose allegiance is to Hollywood and Wall Street and the High Generation. Washington himself would have been a kindred spirit with Rizal in the defense and celebration of freedom.

An Iraqi makes a case for war

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

"THIS is not about WMD (weapons of mass destruction). This is all about oil."

This is the constant refrain of quite a number of armchair generals here and elsewhere in the world as they ascribe motives to Uncle Sam in its confrontation with Iraq. When one considers that Iraq may have the largest reserves of oil, it does look like just a matter of adding two plus two.

Maybe so. But the question arises: If oil and control over it are indeed the reasons behind the US moves, why then did it not take control of Iraq in 1991 when it had the opportunity to do so? Ironically, the United States was severely criticized by many of the same armchair generals for not doing so—the classic damned-if-it-does-damned-if-it-doesn't position.

Another favorite pastime of the armchair generals is to list the sins of omission and commission of the United States. And there are indeed many of these. Uncle Sam as a big bully, playing favorites, talking from both sides of his mouth. The Philippines, maybe more than most, has been a victim of this behavior.

But it would be grossly unfair, not to say irrational, to leave it at that. Weighed against those sins should be Uncle Sam's good deeds. Unfortunately, this part of the exercise is overlooked more often than not. Thus, Uncle Sam looks like an archdemon.

Hussain Al-Shahristani is not an armchair general. He has been in the trenches, and have the scars of battle to show. He deserves a respectful hearing. He is an Iraqi with the highest academic qualifications as a nuclear chemist who served as chief adviser to the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission under Saddam Hussein, then defied him, and lived to tell the tale, paying dearly for his defiance: torture and 10 years in solitary confinement in an Iraqi prison. His daring escape at the height of the Gulf War is the stuff of which movies, if not legends, are made. Moreover, as head of the Iraqi Refugee Aid Council, he has helped thousands of refugees since his escape, based first in Iran, and more recently in London. In short, he's been there, and done that. No one has more right to speak on the subject. What's more, he makes a lot of sense.

The following are from a radio interview as well as a by-invitation-only forum at which he spoke and fielded questions. The parenthetical remarks are from another self-confessed armchair general: *moi*.

Should there be a no-war policy? "No war—period—without any follow-up to help the Iraqi people to remove Saddam from power is **not** a formula for peace and stability. The Iraqis have already lost one million people to Saddam. Any solution has to be based on the pivotal point that Saddam has to go." *(The anti-war demonstrations—I can't imagine anyone who is pro-war—unfortunately had no messages to Saddam.)*

Is there a peaceful or bloodless way to get rid of Saddam? "Saddam himself told the Iraqi people when he assumed power that 'We have come to stay...and if we have to go, you can be assured that there will be no living thing left in Iraq.'" *(One remembers how he set fire to the Kuwaiti oil fields when he was forced to retreat—a real believer in the scorched-earth policy.)*

What then would be the best way? "Saddam has been able to convince his followers—and some generals believe him—that this is a war of occupation, of aggression. If he is faced with an occupying army from the United States, his generals may fight back. But a UN Task Force composed of Arab and non-Arab forces sends a different message to Iraqis and soldiers, and they will not fight. That is why it is very important to get the UN solidly behind this." *(Which is why it would be a grave mistake for the United States to do anything unilaterally, even if it can cite provisions in UNSCR 1441 to justify its actions. The United States not only has to be right, it has to be wise.)*

Does Saddam have popular support among Iraqis? "Iraqis showed how they feel about Saddam in 1991 when 14 out of 18 provinces rose against him. Overwhelming majorities freed the country and arrested the Baathists. But they were betrayed/abandoned by the coalition (read US) forces. Saddam came back and killed 300,000 Iraqis in reprisal during the retaking....There are three main opposition groups in Iraq: the Islamists, Arab Nationalists and leftists. In addition, there are expatriate groups in the west...The Iraqi army is demoralized, and under the right circumstances will not fight for Saddam...but he has developed a corps of Special Republican Guards who are not from the people, but are tribesmen brainwashed from their youth to be loyal." *(The "betrayal" of the Iraqis by the Western forces may have engendered a case of once-bitten, twice shy.)*

Are there WMD in Iraq? "Saddam has produced a large amount of chemical, biological and radiological agents, supported by hundreds of Western firms, and many Western governments. There has never been an argument there...no one more than the Iraqis are concerned with WMD because they are the primary victims, together with Iran...the argument is whether there are any remaining, because Iraq shows no proof of destruction. For example, Iraq admitted that it had 19,500 warheads filled with these agents, and its air force archives show that 13,000 of these were used. The world should rightfully be worried as to where the remaining 6,500 warheads that contain 1,000 tons of chemicals are. But it should not forget that the 13,000 shells were used against Iraqis, as well as Iranians."

Misplaced nationalism

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IT seems that the group of 12 senators that blocked the passage of more stringent amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA), as demanded by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), has found a convenient bête noire in the US-AID funded research group, Accelerating Growth, Investment and Liberalization with Equity (Agile). Reaping public criticism for jeopardizing Philippine transactions with the international financial community, including remittances of overseas Filipino workers, the senators are now raising the specter of intervention into RP affairs by Agile. They are capitalizing on the post-9/11 anti-American sentiment around the world by invoking nationalism. But it looks like a convenient smokescreen and their nationalism here is clearly misplaced.

* * *

In raising the bogey of US interventionism, they are trying to divert attention from the real issue in the AMLA fiasco, which is, the serious consequences to our economic and business life of being isolated from the international financial community, where various nations abide by international guidelines. What will happen if, for instance, after March 15, 25 million Filipino dependents of the seven million OFWs start receiving late their average $150 monthly remittance, which they use for food, tuition, house rent, etc.? Which is the truer nationalism, ensuring responsible behavior in the world economic community or turning the country into a financial pariah?

* * *

Frankly, I am surprised that senators with long exposure to international finance and business, such as Edgardo Angara and Manuel Villar, would risk keeping the country on the FATF's watchlist and suffering sanctions by stubbornly invoking "sovereignty." As Australian Chamber Commer official Peter Wallace pointed out in a recent article, the FATF issue is not about sovereignty but the attempt of many countries, led by the most developed economies, to curb the influx of dirty money into the world financial system.

* * *

What the anti-amendments senators don't say is that, as Manila Times columnist Fermin Adriano, who has worked for Agile, pointed out, Agile was started in 1997 with a $25-million budget for five years and is manned largely by Filipino consultants who assist various government agencies in making studies on various issues. Adriano stressed that Agile's policy conclusions are "recommendatory in nature" and that "it's up to the host government to accept (them) or not." Noting that a number of RP offices have, in fact, turned down Agile's recommendations, he said that the notion that it is dictating policymaking is "an exaggeration."

The fact is that lobby groups have been around for decades. In the US Congress, lobbying is a thriving legitimate multi-million dollar industry. The senators themselves have entertained various foreign-funded groups like Agile, but now they are suddenly ringing alarm bells about these groups to hide their mistake. If one analyzes it, the senators are partly to blame if the lobby groups have acquired powers that are unwarranted.

* * *

Names of various politicians are being bandied around as presidential material, and they include industrialist Eduardo Cojuangco, ex-Sen. Raul Roco and Senators Panfilo Lacson and Juan Flavier. Recently the New York Times, in an editorial published in the International Herald Tribune, may have launched the political career of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes. The Times, commenting on the outbreak of fresh hostilities between the government and the MILF, pointed out that waging war against Muslim guerrillas is a "vote-getter" in the Philippines. It opined that Reyes may be counting on the war "to win him support for a presidential bid in 2004," but this is something he should be "restrained" from doing by President Macapagal-Arroyo now that she has disavowed any political plans. Political pundits have heard of Reyes' ambition to get into the Senate, but this is the first time he has been reported to be seeking the presidency. Not that there is no precedent to speak of: both Ramon Magsaysay Sr. and Fidel Ramos were catapulted to the presidency from the DND.

* * *

The Haven for Children in Alabang which was spearheaded by Ms Gina de Venecia, wife of the Speaker and chair of the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc. (CSFI), was inaugurated last Monday to coincide with her birthday celebration. It was a typical Gina *pakulo*, attended by an array of personalities from government, politics, show biz and the diplomatic community. Planned to be home to 200 to 300 street children undergoing drug rehabilitation, this is a logical consequence of the CSFI's earlier success, the Haven for Women that has since treated some 7,000 battered women. Both projects, which will have adjuncts in the 15 regions to be turned over to the DSWD, were built from donations as well as Speaker De Venecia's CDF. He promised to give P1 for every P2 the spouses raised. And to make sure the mayors of Pangasinan would not complain about this, JDV brought them along to see for themselves the laudable fruits.

One of the most impressed visitors was President Macapagal-Arroyo, who paid tribute to the partnership between the De Venecias in such glowing terms that caught even the couple by surprise. GMA praised JDV's leadership and demonstrated political will in Congress (after all, his chamber passed the AMLA with FATF-acceptable provisions), and called Gina his "secret weapon" that enabled JDV to make a historic return to the House as third-time speaker.

War, migration and trafficking

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I WAS in Cagayan de Oro early this week to, among other reasons, address students and faculty of Xavier University in a symposium on the trafficking of persons.

Two graduate students of anthropology were asked to act as reactors: Penelope Sanz, an entrepreneur and writer for a business magazine, and Jowel Canuday, who used to be a Mindanao correspondent for this paper and is now a reporter for MindaNews. I was struck by Jowel's piece, particularly the way he linked the current (and past) conflicts in Mindanao to the issue of trafficking.

I'm reprinting Jowel's talk in hopes that it will leave us all pondering the effects of war beyond the casualties, the evacuees and the self-serving press releases of generals and defense secretaries.

* * *

TWO weeks ago, I was inclined to approach my reaction on this issue by illustrating how journalists portrayed and presented or failed in reporting the intricacies of trafficking in women...

I would have wanted to reflect on the arrogance, condescending attitude and insensitivity of many of my colleagues in the profession in covering the issue. After all, there had been many nights when news television programs would dish out video footage and photographs of scantily dressed women being caught in police raids in some cheap night clubs.

As if being hauled off to jail is not embarrassing and traumatic enough, photographers and TV cameramen would pan on their faces even as they frantically hide themselves behind their palms or hankies. Dominant images in the media portray them as criminals, as if they are not victims of circumstances, who fell into prostitution due to factors beyond their control.

But then, critical events cropped up last week which I think will have very serious implications on migration patterns within Mindanao, across the country and from the island to the rest of the world. The events I am referring to are the recent war being waged by the military in the plains and marshlands of Pikit in North Cotabato and the adjacent Pagalungan town in Maguindanao.

* * *

A DAY following the military declaration of victory in an assault over the alleged base of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas in Pikit last Sunday, the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Central Mindanao reported that the number of evacuees had reached about 40,000 or more than half of the town's 69,000 population. All over the areas affected by the recent armed conflict in North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao, the DSWD reported that the number of evacuees had swelled to 80,000.

I wonder if there was indeed victory in that battle. Practically villages upon villages of civilians were uprooted. Mosques, farms and roads have been ravaged by lethal and destructive 500-pound bombs dropped by the Air Force's OV-10 assault aircraft and howitzer artillery fired by the Army on the ground.

Now that the battle is over, as declared by the military, the question is who will feed the displaced who flocked to the evacuation centers? Who will foot the medical bill for the diseases that will likely spread in the cramped refugee centers? The last time I checked, international law and our very own Constitution mandate the government to address all these matters...

But our government has been proven wanting in addressing the adverse impact of war if we are to look (at) the patterns of history, starting from the war waged by the late dictator President Ferdinand Marcos in the 1970s, the "all-out war" campaign of deposed President Joseph Estrada against MILF positions in the summer of 2000 and the military's final offensive in Sulu in September also of 2000.

But granting, for the sake of argument, that government delivers the goods to the evacuees, the magnitude of the exodus caused by the war is not only a welfare problem of the present but an omen in the migration process, most especially for women.

* * *

WHY do I say it's ominous?

Again, the answer can be gleaned from the patterns of our history. The war in the 1970s resulted in heavy waves of migration of both the Moro and Christian settlers in Central Mindanao, parts of Southern Mindanao and Western Mindanao. Residents of Tawi-tawi and Sulu, the major sites of gunbattles between the soldiers and the Moro rebels, sailed to the neighboring state of Sabah in Malaysia while the more affluent went farther off to the Middle East. So (great) was the number of migrants to Sabah, most of them undocumented, that when the Malaysian government cracked down on undocumented aliens in their country last year, the estimates of unregistered Filipinos reached 500,000. Then Malaysia decided to repatriate hundreds of thousands of Filipinos, including the original evacuees of the 1970s and their descendants.

Moro and Christian residents in Central Mindanao and Southern Mindanao flocked to urbanized cities like Davao, General Santos and Cagayan de Oro. In 1986, about 60 percent of Davao's one million population reportedly lived in slums and on untitled lots. Some researchers pointed out that a number of the slum dwellers and the so-called squatters were actually migrants who fled from the wars in the 1970s and the military's massive anti-insurgency campaign in the 1980s.

Three decades after the wars in Central Mindanao and other Moro areas, tensions remain high. (Neither) the MILF rebellion nor the communist insurgency has been broken by the military. The oases of relatively peaceful and developing areas like Davao, Cagayan de Oro and GenSan are reeling from massive poverty, underdevelopment, and the lack of economic and job opportunities.

Why not a botanical garden?

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

BECAUSE it's not a priority, of course. I mean, who really cares whether the country has one or not? Despite this being a tropical country none of the post-war administrations ever thought it was worth the bother. A report of the Bureau of Insular Affairs dated 1903 brought home the fact that as far back as 100 years ago, there was an awareness of the need and uses of a garden that would carry specimens of the different flora of the country.

The American regime had apparently observed that colonial powers like the United Kingdom and Holland cultivated botanical gardens in their colonies to gain an accurate knowledge of the flora of the country. This was deemed essential in developing a successful agriculture program and in forestry work. Consequently, botanical gardens were found in Java, Hong Kong, Singapore, Penang, Ceylon and India, "each with magnificent collections of growing plants, both native and foreign, large herbaria and complete botanical libraries."

With that example in mind and considering that there already was a botanical garden in existence created by royal decree in the mid-19th century to the left of what is now the Manila City Hall, even if it was in a state of disrepair after the war, the authorities felt that "a botanic garden in the Philippines is a matter of such great importance to the agricultural interests of the Islands that the question has received the serious consideration of those directly interested." It was conceived as a site where scientific work on "timber, fiber plants, fruits, medicinal plants, food plants, and those that produce dyes, tans, gums, resins, gutta-percha, etc. could be carried out for the material benefit of the inhabitants."

The importance of a more thorough knowledge of the flora of the archipelago was recognized by the Philippine Commission, and in February 1902, the position of botanist was provided for in the Bureau of Agriculture. A fully equipped botanical laboratory was established, complete with a library and working herbarium.

The report sent to Washington stated that the most evident and striking element of wealth in the Philippine Islands consisted of its forests which covered an area of 51,537,243 acres in 1876. In 1890, Fernando Castro estimated the forest area at 48,112,920 acres. Pine, cedar, mahogany and hundreds of other hard woods, valuable dye woods and rubber and gutta-percha trees existed in immense quantities. The annual growth of these forests was estimated at 1.4 billion cubic feet. Cagayan and Isabela Provinces had at least 2 million acres of forest. The eastern coast of Luzon from the north as far south as Atimonan comprised several million acres of virgin forest.

From Mindoro to Paragua, more than 4 million acres of primeval forest extended from the water's edge to the summit of mountains. The area was celebrated for the great quantity of narra, molave, ipil and calantas. Hard woods measured 4 to 5 feet in diameter and trunks rose 80 feet up to the first limb. Mindanao with an area of 23 million acres, was almost entirely covered by forest. It was estimated that Mindanao alone possessed 10 million acres of virgin forest.

By 1903, 665 native trees had been listed, among them molave, ipil, yacal and dungon, which were remarkable for their durability and strength. These had been used in house constructions for centuries. Two of the bridges in Manila were paved with molave blocks which, although subjected to heavy traffic for many years, had not splintered.

Aside from these incredible wealth, there were plants introduced by Spain from the New World such as tobacco, corn, potatoes, sweet potatoes, cacao, chico, maguey, guava, tomatoes, cassava, pineapple, peanuts, papaya, ciruelas, cashew nut, custard apple and chico-mamey. But the most important crop was, of course, rice since it was and is the staple food. At the time there were 100 varieties being cultivated.

Extraordinary demand sprang up for gum chicle to produce chewing gum (composed of starch, sugar and flavors) by the American Chicle Co. The tree that produced gum chicle is *Achras sapota*, also known as "chico." Grown largely for its fruit, people were generally ignorant of the money value of its abundant sap or latex. The tapping of the tree, collecting of its sap and preparation of the gum were quite simple and three to four pounds of gum could be withdrawn from January to July.

Among the other products considered to have economic value were the blossoms of the ilang-ilang, botanically known as *Conanga odorata*, a member of the atis family. It grew in the wild but was also under cultivation. It was considered the equal of, if not superior to, the attar of roses, the famed essential oil of the Damask rose of the Balkans, because it gave a greater yield of essence. Although indigenous to many parts of tropical Asia, it grew best in the Philippines. When a tree was eight years old, it yielded 100 pounds of blossoms. Seventy-five pounds of flowers yielded one pound of oil that sold at $40 to $50 on the world market in 1903.

(Today India is the biggest exporter of ilang-ilang, while we no longer grow any for export as far as I know. And perish the thought that anyone among our officials would even think of restoring the botanical garden in Manila. They, after all, have other priorities. But bear in mind the state of agriculture and the fact that we don't even produce enough rice. So let's not even think of the fate of the forests).

(Data from "Description of the Philippines," Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department, Washington, D.C., 1903.)

Sketches of war

YOUNG BLOOD

Reyno Almonia

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

THEIR drawings are so simple: crooked strokes and elementary sketches of ballpen scrawled on bond paper. The artists cannot draw like those from a school of fine arts for they are still very young. But their masterpieces speak of things they have experienced which are retained vividly in their innocent minds. They are the children helplessly caught in the grip of war. They are the innocent Muslim children dodging bullets fired by clashing government troops and Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels in Mindanao.

I was deeply disturbed when I saw their drawings exhibited at the lobby of the University of San Carlos in Cebu City. The purpose of the exhibit was to bring their cause to the attention of the outside world. I was hurt. "This can't be!" I told myself. I cried as I tried to feel the pain and trauma they had gone through. They were too young, too innocent to experience the horrors of war.

One child had drawn a burning house. I imagined that the house must have been his home, the only one he had known.

Another had drawn people fleeing and a child caressing a dead man with blood splattered all over his limp body. Most probably, the dead man was the child's beloved father who perished before his eyes while protecting the family he loved.

Another child had drawn planes bombing houses, the very planes that shattered their dreams. The monstrous war machines that spat hellish fire and brought destruction to his community.

Other children had drawn similar scenes that spoke of the horrendous experiences which they would carry throughout their earthly sojourn.

Their pieces of art affected me so much. I loved to draw when I was their age. I learned to draw when I was in kindergarten. Two of my artworks were even displayed in my class and I was very proud of it. I got the "Best Drawing Award" during our graduation.

My first piece of art depicts a luscious valley at sunrise with birds playfully soaring in the clouds while verdant trees and dainty houses populate the terrain below. This was the scenery that I saw outside our window every morning when I was still growing up in Medina, Misamis Oriental.

The second artwork shows a small boat with some children diving into the clear sea water. One can even see a school of fish beneath the waves. It captures the moments when my sister, cousins, friends and I went to our town's pier and used the boats at anchor as our diving boards and the deep sea served as a huge swimming pool.

I cherish the memories evoked by these two childhood works of art. Whenever I go to other places and see similar scenes, my childhood memories return and I smile. They remind me of countless happy moments in my young life.

But how about these children caught amid the horrors and violence of war? The atrocities done before their eyes will leave a deep gash in their minds. How will they see life when they are grown up? What feelings will their experiences evoke?

My memory is filled with nature's beauty and fun, theirs with destruction and the pain of losing loved ones.

How does a blob of ink look on a crumpled piece of paper?

Reyno Almonia, 25, is taking up his master's degree in psychology at the Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro. He also works as an instructor at STI.

By God's grace

Joan Valera

I HAVE learned that one can never go against God's plan. In May of 1997, at the age of 27, I was diagnosed with brain tumor after suffering a seizure during training at the National Center for Mental Health.

I am a nurse by profession. After four years of practice at the Philippine General Hospital, I decided to go into teaching. I was taking up my master's at the University of the Philippines, and was enticed to teach at the UP College of Nursing in Manila.

The first year of teaching was very challenging. Juggling my studies and my work was hard, but I was enjoying myself. I thought I had to give something back to the institution that prepared me for my career. I was not perfect but I was a work in progress. Until illness struck.

When I opened my eyes after my first operation, I found myself unable to talk, unable to ask for what I wanted. I remember having gone to confession, unable to enumerate my sins. All I could do was smile. It was good that the same thing was happening to the priest: he had a hard time explaining what he wanted to say in English because he was Japanese!

All that I wanted to say was in my head but I couldn't organize my thoughts. I couldn't lift my arm. I couldn't even go to the bathroom—my right leg was too weak to support my body.

It was in this stillness and silence that I paid attention to God's voice. He had been talking to me but I was preoccupied with other things. I had become too obstinate to listen!

He was telling me it's not with intellect, not with words or with actions that we are able to communicate with Him. God hears the prayers of our souls and sees through our hearts.

I guess my heart needed a major overhaul at that time. I was awed by nature but forgot to praise and give thanks to its Maker. My hands were so full of things to do that He called my attention by taking away everything that mattered: my mother, my job, my health, my money, my independence, my pride. I read in Ephesians: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith. Not by yourselves."

I found myself suffering all kinds of pain—physical, emotional, psychological. But aren't those what Jesus Christ had to go through while He was here on earth?

St. Paul said: "Therefore do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly, we are being renewed day by day." In my illness, I hold on daily to the courage, perseverance and humility that God provides me. My right arm is still weak, and if I raise it up, it sets off a tremor. It is hard for me to pick up small things with my right arm because my fine motor skills aren't that good. I easily stumble and fall. Hunger, lack of sleep, stress or staying under the sun for a long time trigger seizures.

Now, I can say that I am completely dependent on God's grace. I have nothing, no wealth, no power to be proud of. But I am something in the eyes of God. Imagine, after five operations under general anesthesia, I am still alive! I must have really caught His attention!

Accepting my illness and the difficulties that go with it was really hard at first. But I learned to offer it to God. Every day I am learning to let go and let Him lead my life. After all, I never really own it. It is for the Lord to take whenever, wherever and in whatever way He wishes.

Let us learn to thank God that we are still alive today. His grace is new every morning and He gives us opportunities each day to do His will. It is up to us to choose which way to go! Again I quote from St. Paul: "But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Somebody once asked me, "So this is your sixth life?"

I told him, "Yes, this is my sixth life, and I thank God for it!"

Joan Valera works as a research assistant at the Philippine General Hospital.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Why are senators opposing tougher AMLA?

I CANNOT understand why several senators are willing to risk the economic collapse of the country by passing an Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA) that is not in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) guidelines. Their arguments that we are being singled out is hogwash. There are approximately 120 countries in the world today and the Philippines is only one of eight that have not accepted the FATF guidelines on bank deposits. Most of these eight countries are tiny island nations like Nauru and Cook Island.

Our senators insist that a court order be secured before a suspicious account can be frozen and investigated. This is illogical. It takes time to secure a court order while the funds in a suspicious account can be withdrawn or transferred in seconds. The FATF wants the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) to be the sole authority that can freeze and investigate a suspicious account. The AMLC is composed of the Central Bank governor, the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the insurance commissioner who have to vote unanimously before an account can be frozen and investigated.

The FATF was initially put up by the Group of Seven, composed of the wealthiest countries in the world. These countries established the FATF not only to target drug lords but also crooked government officials. These countries were sick and tired of seeing their aid and soft loans ending up in the pockets of crooked government officials and politicians. With the FATF guidelines, it will be more difficult for a crooked government official to hide his loot.

This is probably the very reason our senators do not want to comply with the FATF guidelines. They want to protect themselves. They will have a hard time explaining why countrywide development funds ended up in their personal accounts. They have limited the suspicious accounts that the AMLC can investigate to those related to drugs, kidnapping and bank robbery.

Many politicians and government big shots have small salaries and no other visible means of livelihood but they maintain huge accounts in banks. Why should these accounts be exempted from investigation?

The argument that our overseas workers will be hit hard by the FATF sanctions is true. But the sector that will be hit hardest will be our export industries. With 70 percent of our exports consisting of electronic products, mostly computer parts, our markets will simply turn to other countries.

All this because a handful of senators are afraid that their bank accounts would be subjected to scrutiny and their ill-gotten wealth exposed.

—RICO XERES,
Eisenhower Street,
Greenhills, San Juan,
Metro Manila

LETTERS

Inaccuracies in account of La Salle massacre

I READ Bambi L. Harper's column last Feb. 11, 2003, titled "Let us remember February 12, 1945," with great interest as it called attention to an event at De La Salle College on Taft Avenue that is forever etched in the memory of the La Sallian family.

The account, from a source that had access to first-hand accounts, has a few inaccuracies: There were 41 people in the building at the time of the massacre. Fr. Francis Cosgrave, the Redemptorist chaplain, survived the massacre and went back to his home country Australia afterwards. The room was not behind the chapel but one floor down underneath the south staircase. Brother Maximin shouted to the Japanese in Japanese downstairs, asking why they were killing their allies (the Germans). Except for these, the account was detailed, dramatic and for the most part, accurate. The La Sallian community sincerely thanks her for her recall of the event in her column.

What marred the account, however, were two sentences in the last paragraph with regard to Filipino-Japanese Friendship Month: "So tomorrow on the anniversary of the massacre of the innocents, De La Salle University begins the celebration. You'd think there aren't any other months in the year."

The choice of February as Filipino-Japanese Friendship Month was made without consulting us. We also wish the observance were held on another month less tainted by unhappy memories.

I do not know where the columnist got the information that we were holding a celebration which would begin on the anniversary of the massacre. We do not know of any celebration of Filipino-Japanese Friendship Month being held on the anniversary of the Feb. 12, 1945 tragedy. Instead, the families whose members were killed on that day had their annual requiem Mass at the family mausoleum at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque. In the evening we had our annual memorial Mass for those who perished on Feb. 12, 1945 and for all members of the La Sallian family who died during the past year.

I am disappointed that a reputable and excellent historical columnist such as the author did not bother to check the accuracy of the facts behind her comment.

—ANDREW GONZALEZ, FSC,
vice president for academics and research,
De La Salle University, 2401 Taft Avenue, Manila

Corruption in ARMM offices

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo should order an investigation into the release of benefits and allowances to government employees in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. These employees, especially public school teachers, only get half of the salaries and benefits due them.

It is high time the corrupt practices of some ARMM officials, particularly in the Department of Education, are stopped. Erring officials should be removed.

—ROGELIO IDELFONSO,
Bongao, Tawi-Tawi

Restrictions on women's choices

THE RECENT death of 23-year-old Mary Joan Nobleza after an unsafe abortion should jolt us all back to the reality that women in this country die every day because of the lack of concern for their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Estimates show that 400,000 women undergo induced abortion annually and around 80,000 are hospitalized every year for abortion complications (UP Population Institute, 1997). Such figures, however, are just the tip of the iceberg. The silence that surrounds the issue of abortion because of its illegality in the Philippines prevents us from getting the real figures particularly on the number of women who die because of unsafe abortions. Nevertheless, Mary Joan is certainly not the only woman who has suffered such a ghastly albeit preventable death.

Women resort to induced abortion because of an unplanned or unwanted pregnancy that may have resulted from unprotected sex, contraceptive failure, or from forced sex as in cases of rape and incest. It is, therefore, imperative that women have access to appropriate and accurate reproductive health information and services, particularly on contraceptives that would prevent unplanned pregnancies.

What is so tragic in the Philippines, however, is that many women, particularly among the poor, have little choice especially on the issue of unplanned or unwanted pregnancy. While women are not legally allowed access to safe abortion services, they are continuously being deprived of access to reproductive health information and services, particularly the full range of contraceptive methods. Access to emergency contraception is also being prevented even for survivors of sexual abuse who do not want to face unwanted pregnancies.

Such restrictions on women's choices are clear violations of women's right to life and health. As a signatory to various international human rights treatises, we are compelled as a country to remove all barriers to women's exercise of their rights including their sexual and reproductive rights. The government should, therefore, address the issue of unsafe abortion by creating an enabling environment for women to exercise their right to reproductive self-determination.

—WILMA T. BANAGA,
Reproductive Rights Resource Group-Philippines,
140 UP P.O. Box,
Diliman, Quezon City

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Between a rock and a hard place

COMMENTARY

Robert Francis Garcia

THE KILLING of Rolly Kintanar has prodded many former cadres, such as Nathan Quimpo, Rudy Salas and Ric Reyes, to come out with potentially explosive revelations of matters that were previously internal to the party. Meanwhile, current NPA leaders Joma Sison and Ka Roger relentlessly tried to defame the person they had just killed and hurled threats of more deaths to "revolutionary traitors."

The media had a field day. As expected, broadcast and print were smoking with the series of bombshells and the staccato fire of revelations and quotable quotes. It was the story of the moment. All these actually made me too dizzy, unable to make sense of it all. For one, I found myself completely at a loss when I was invited as resource person in the Jan. 30 episode of "Debate" on GMA 7.

The question before "Debate" was: Civilian volunteers against NPA hit squad: Are you in favor?

Being one of the surviving victims of torture in the hands of the New People's Army during the infamous anti-infiltration purges of the 1980s, it would have been logical for me to be in favor of the proposition. But my libertarian tendencies got the better of me. My knee-jerk reaction was to disagree, for a number of reasons: the memory of vigilante groups in the past (notorious for gross human rights violations, like the Alsa Masa and the Tadtad); the possible threat to the safety of civilians; and the implications to privacy and security of activists and even ordinary folk. We are all allergic to surveillance.

Teddy Casiño, an old friend whose politics I do not share, articulated these concerns well enough. Of course, his unspoken bottom line was that these groups would be organized precisely against them—a real threat to their group—so why would he support it? He cannot be expected to favor an initiative that targets the CPP-NPA and, most likely, its legal outlets as well.

Jun Alcover of the National Alliance for Democracy (and Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto) strongly argued in favor of the proposition by attacking Bayan and the League of Filipino Students as communist fronts and the CPP-NPA itself for the latter's record of atrocity: torture of their own comrades, the execution of suspects without due process, terror bombings and so on.

My biggest problem was not that Alcover and Maganto were telling lies but that unfortunately they were telling the truth. But I was hard put to identify with them precisely because the kind of anti-CPP stance they espouse smacks of right-wing witch-hunt and McCarthyism. The vitriolic hatred they regularly spew forth in their propaganda sows further tension and leads to the further escalation of conflict.

As I said, I was at a loss for words during the TV show. I found it difficult to come up with a categorical stand on complex issues such as this. But primetime TV cannot abide nuancing. It is not the place to reflect on the merits of arguments. The media are only interested in soundbytes. They jump with joy when protagonists shout at each other and mouth the best propaganda line.

I could only gape, my indecision and agony clearly painted on my face. I sat there, wondering whatever new wisdom was emerging from the cockfight happening in front of me. They were cutting each other and slinging mud in front of the ogling Pinoy audience nationwide. When Mareng Winnie and Pareng Oca asked me my opinion, I could only say weakly: "I don't know."

It was at that precise moment that I realized that I was at the contact point between a rock and a hard place.

People who are absolutely sure of themselves, like Maganto and Luis Jalandoni (who was also on air through phone patch) may have a convenient word for this: fence-sitting.

The CPP-NPA is clear about where it stands and what it wants to accomplish. That is its strength—it is unbending, and it is prepared to do whatever it takes to achieve its goal. Killing enemies, perceived or otherwise, is par for the course.

But its strength is in fact its weakness, for its leaders don't allow themselves to doubt. What if they are wrong? My heart goes out to people waylaid in the course of a revolution whose success has never been proven to bring any good anywhere in the world and whose goals and dogmas have been repudiated elsewhere.

The rest of us do not have the luxury—or burden—of certainty. My kind of indecision is probably shared by many colleagues and former comrades who are reluctant to go all out in attacking a movement they had once been part of.

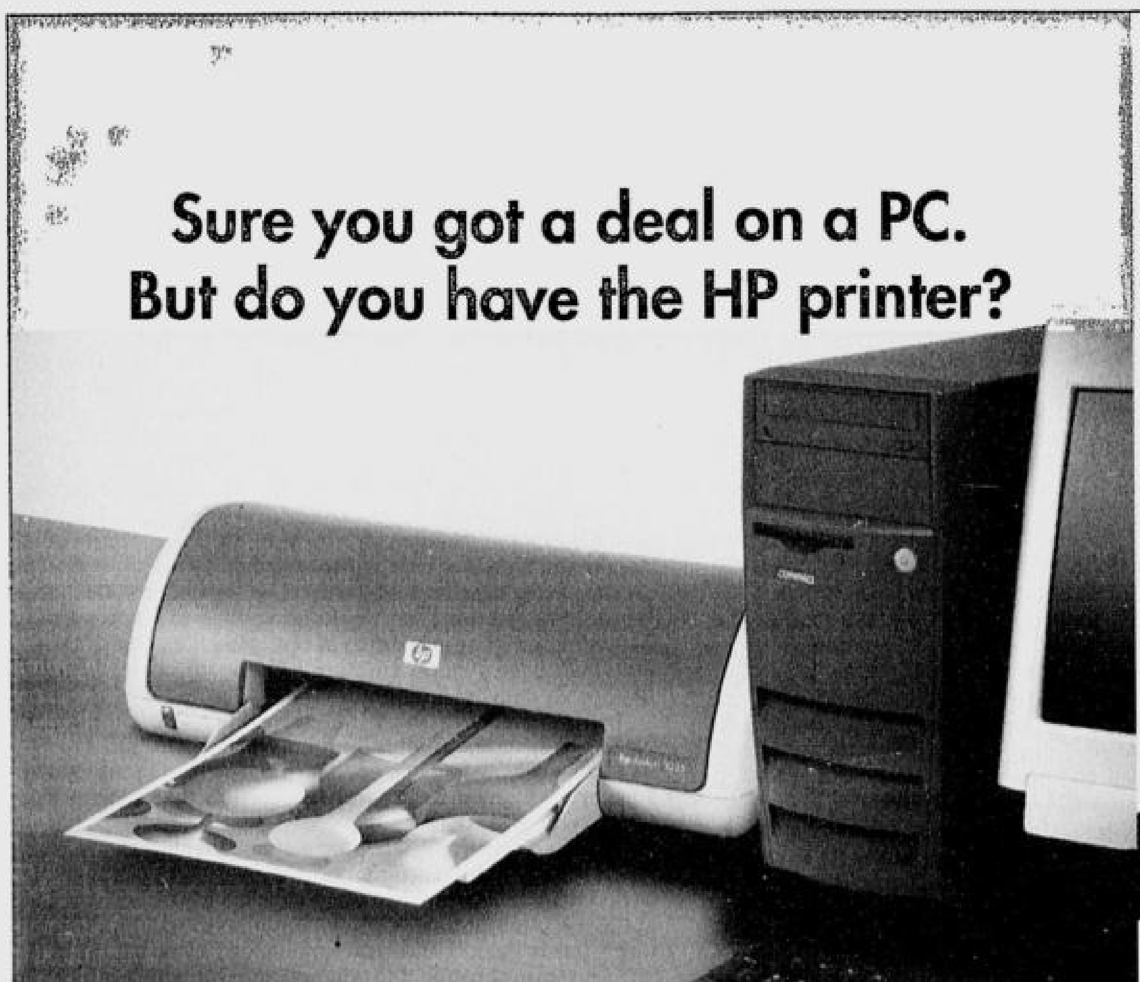
That reluctance, of course, is reinforced in no small measure by fear. I have to admit that the idea of Jalandoni listening in, plus probably hundreds of communist cadres all over the country, plus the recollection of Ka Roger's ominous threats of further bloodletting among "revolutionary traitors," had some intimidating effect.

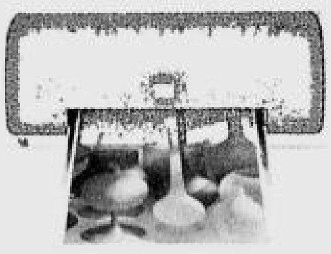
But one clear need is emerging: the truth will have to come out. The killing of Kintanar only bared to the world what the CPP-NPA remains capable of. It has revived interest in the atrocities of the revolutionary movement in the past that have yet to be fully told. References to the bloody anti-infiltration purges—from Kampanyang Ahos in Mindanao, Oplan Missing Link in Southern Tagalog to scores of others largely hidden—are slowly coming out. Charges and countercharges are being hurled from all sides.

Serving as more than just curious observers to all this are the survivors and the families of those who were killed during the purges. Justice has yet to be served, bodies have yet to be found, families have yet to know what really happened to their loved ones. It is high time to let the truth come out so that we can bring closure to this tragic episode in our history.

And, for the sake of the children at least, let us put a stop to all the killings.

Robert Francis Garcia is the author of "To Suffer Thy Comrades: How the Revolution Decimated Its Own" and one of the convenors of Peace Advocates for Truth, Justice and Healing, which calls for the reinvestigation of the CPP purges.





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Pope: Conflict in Iraq would be tragedy for religion

POPE John Paul II praying during a ceremony.
REUTERS

ROME—Pope John Paul II, while saying he was fervently praying that war be averted, acknowledged Thursday that its prospect was looming on the horizon and said such a conflict would be a tragedy for religion.

The Pontiff, who has come out strongly against any preventive strike against Iraq, also called on Christians, Muslims and other faithful not to let themselves be driven further apart by the threat of conflict.

John Paul made his comments to a delegation of leaders of Indonesia's various religions, who appealed to him to step up his diplomatic efforts to find a "fair and peaceful solution" to the Iraqi crisis, "based on humanitarian and moral principles shared by all the religions of the world," said Vatican spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls.

The Pontiff has met in recent days with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, the deputy premier of Iraq and Germany's foreign minister to explore how war might be averted. A special papal envoy met with Saddam Hussein last week to press him to comply with UN disarmament resolutions.

On Saturday, John Paul gives an audience to British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who has been Washington's strongest ally in the drive to rally support for a possible military strike on Iraq. The Vatican has said it is in contact with Washington.

"With the real possibility of war looming on the horizon, we must not permit politics to become a source of further division among the world's religions," John Paul told the Indonesian delegation.

"In fact, neither the threat of war nor war itself should be allowed to alienate Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and members of other religions," the Pope said.

"As religious leaders committed to peace, we should work together with our own people, with those of other religious beliefs and with all men and women of good will to ensure understanding, cooperation and solidarity," the Pontiff said.

John Paul then repeated his remarks, delivered last month to diplomats accredited to the Holy See, that "war is always a defeat for humanity." This time he added: "it is also a tragedy for religion."

"My fervent prayer is that our efforts to promote mutual understanding and trust will bear abundant fruit and help the world to avoid conflict," the Pontiff told the religious leaders. *AP*

US may adjust aid to Turkey to end impasse

WASHINGTON—The United States signaled a willingness on Thursday to make last-minute revisions to an economic aid package for Turkey, hoping to end an impasse with its Nato ally over the use of Turkish bases by American forces for a possible war with Iraq.

The overture, which may involve restructuring portions of the $26 billion package to provide more assistance to Turkey at the same cost to the United States, could help salvage US plans to send up to 40,000 troops to Turkey for use in a possible invasion of Iraq from the north. An announcement could come as soon as Friday.

Secretary of State Colin Powell told reporters the US aid offer—which amounts to $6 billion in grants and up to $20 billion in loan guarantees—was as high as the United States could go.

"Our position was firm with respect to the kind of assistance we could provide with respect to the level," Powell said. But he added: "There may be some other creative things we can do."

So far Turkey has balked at the offer, demanding up to $32 billion in aid, including up to $10 billion in grants and more leeway to decide how the money is spent.

It is unclear whether tinkering with the structure of the package will win Ankara over.

Turkish Prime Minister Abdullah Gul said he would make a statement on the issue on Friday. The local CNN Turk news channel reported US Ambassador to Ankara Robert Pearson may be called to the Foreign Ministry ahead of the statement.

Powell said he expected to hear from Ankara before the end of the day. But a US official said that didn't mean Washington expected a final response on Thursday. "We didn't set a deadline," the official added.

Senior US defense officials said Washington had told Ankara it needed to know by the end of this week whether Turkey accepted the US aid package in exchange for allowing up to 40,000 US troops into the country. *Reuters*

'Axis of evil,' NAM nations oppose war

KUALA LUMPUR—US President George W. Bush's "axis of evil" and 111 other countries thrashed out their stands on terrorism, Palestine and the crises in Iraq and North Korea at a conference here Friday.

Senior officials of the 114-nation Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which embraces the three points of Bush's notorious "axis"—Iran, Iraq and North Korea—were wrestling with issues such as the difference between a terrorist and a freedom fighter.

One thing they are all likely to agree on is strong opposition to a US-led war to disarm the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein without the support of the UN Security Council.

A draft statement on Iraq for adoption by heads of state at a summit next week says "we categorically reject the threats of unilateral use of force to resolve issues affecting international peace and security."

The statement welcomes Iraq's "cooperation" with UN weapons inspectors, noting that it had reported "significant progress."

The leader of the Iraqi delegation to the preparatory meeting, Saeed Al-Musawi, said he hoped the NAM would endorse a controversial call from the Arab League's foreign ministers urging Arab countries not to provide facilities or logistics to US troops to wage war against Iraq. *AFP*

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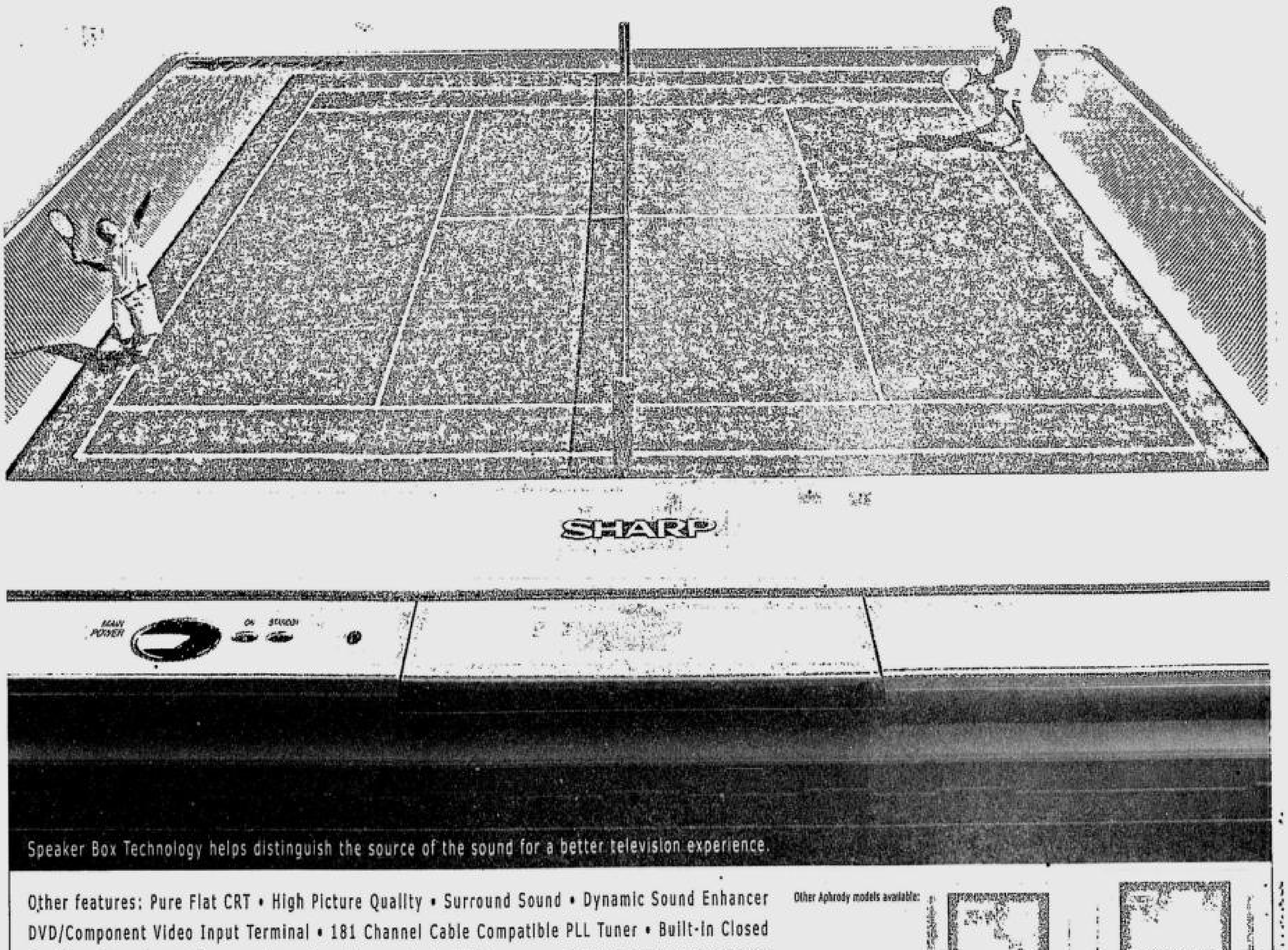

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Iran calls off search at site of worst air crash

SIRCH, Iran—Rescuers battled fierce winds and snow on Thursday as they recovered mangled body parts and searched for clues to why a military plane slammed into a mountain in Iran, killing all 302 Revolutionary Guards on board.

The death toll from Wednesday's crash, the worst in Iran's history, was the highest in a string of air disasters in Iran involving Russian-made aircraft.

Officials said bad weather may have caused the crash in which 284 passengers, among them scores of high-ranking military officials, and 18 crew died. The pilot said he was battling strong winds before radio contact was lost.

Atrocious weather later forced the rescue teams to abandon their search and as darkness fell on the towering Sirch mountain chain in southeastern Iran, where the Ilyushin-76 troop carrier crashed, distraught relatives reluctantly drifted away.

"It will take a long time so go home, be patient. We are doing our best and with God's help we'll find the bodies of your relatives," Revolutionary Guards Commander Raufi Nejad told a group of around 20 men waiting on the freezing mountainside.

Rescue officials said the search was due to resume on Friday.

The soldiers had been returning from border duties near Iran's frontier with Pakistan for 48 hours' leave at home.

Formed shortly after Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, the Revolutionary Guards force is independent of the regular army and played a key role in the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war. Today it numbers about 120,000 personnel and answers directly to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei—the head of Iran's Shi'ite Muslim establishment.

In a message of condolence to the head of the Revolutionary Guards, Khamenei said: "The tragic event... in which a group of my beloved children lost their lives, deeply grieved me."

Iran's President Mohammad Khatami called for a thorough investigation of the crash and quick publication of the results.

Rescuers working on the treacherous mountain slopes have so far only recovered a few bags of badly mutilated body parts. The plane's flight data recorder, which could throw light on the cause of the crash, had also not been located by nightfall.

Rescue workers returning from the crash site spoke of finding fist-sized body parts among the burned wreckage.

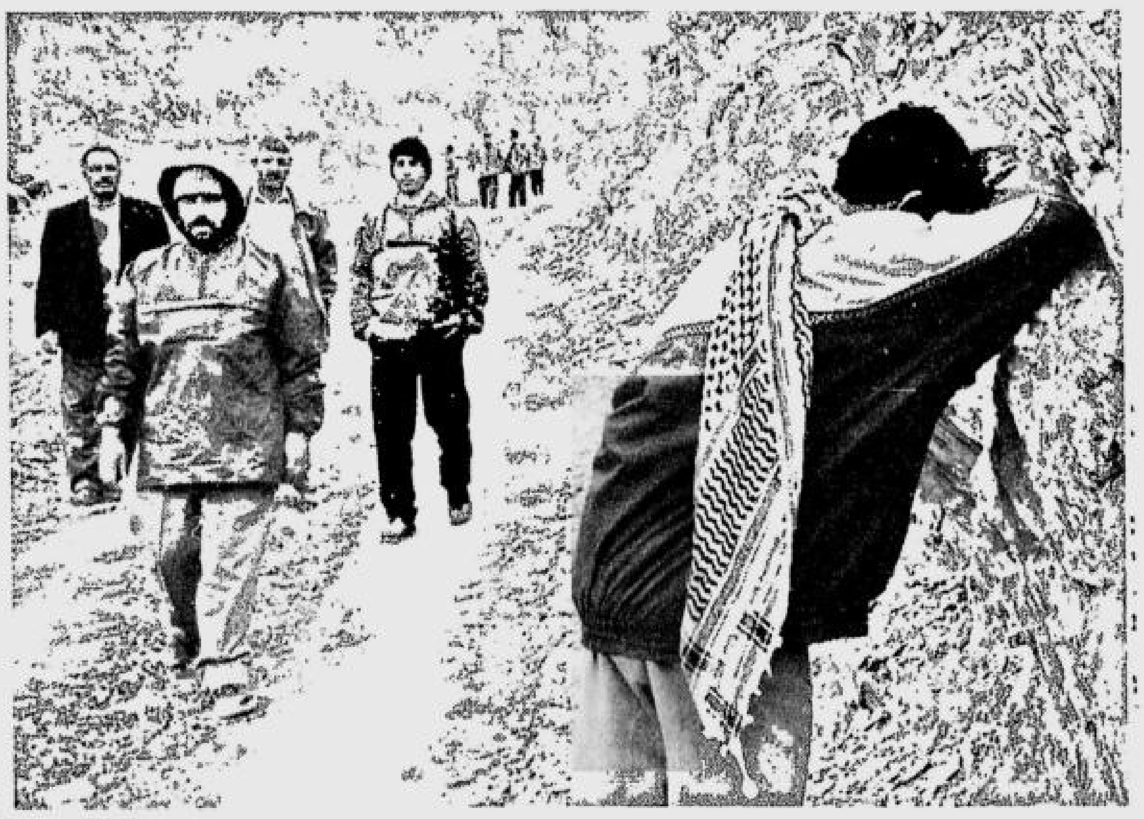
"It was one of the worst scenes I've witnessed. The bodies are just destroyed," said Mohammad, a Red Crescent worker.

Hossein Ali wept as he spoke about his brother, who was on board the ill-fated flight.

"I lost one of my brothers in the Iran-Iraq war and this one fought for his country. Our parents don't know anything about the crash," he said.

Earlier on Thursday, a large blackened circle surrounded by snow could be seen from about 1.5 km away, marking the spot where the aircraft smashed into the mountainside.

Officials said the aircraft had come within about 100 meters of making it over the summit of the Sirch mountain chain which rises to over 3,000 meters. *Reuters*



A REVOLUTIONARY Guard (right) grieves over his dead comrades as a group of rescue workers look on, on a moutainside in southeastern Iran where a Russian-made Ilyushin-76 troop carrier military plane crashed, killing all 302 Revolutionary Guards on board, Feb. 20. REUTERS

N. Korea danger seen much worse than Iraq crisis

SINGAPORE—The stakes in the North Korean nuclear standoff are much higher than those in the Iraq crisis, a former South Korean foreign minister has warned.

Former Foreign Minister Chong-ha Yoo said the dispute could lead to Japan and South Korea arming themselves with nuclear weapons and the possible withdrawal of US troops from both of those countries out of fear of a North Korean nuclear attack.

"North Korea is no Iraq. Iraq is a dwarf to North Korea on every scale," Yoo told diplomats, academics and business people during a talk at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore late Thursday.

"Once it is confirmed that North Korea has nuclear weapons, I believe the United States will decide to withdraw their troops from Korea. They know what kind of regime North Korea is and what kind of a danger their soldiers are exposed to," said Yoo, now a professor at Seoul's Sogang University.

US troops could also leave Japan because a key part of their role there is to reinforce soldiers in Korea, he said.

The nuclear dispute has intensified since October, when US officials said North Korea had admitted having a covert nuclear program. Washington and its allies suspended fuel shipments, and the North retaliated by expelling UN monitors, restarting frozen nuclear facilities and withdrawing from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

North Korea threatened earlier this week to abandon the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War if the United States went ahead with sanctions or other actions against the communist country.

In addition to possible nuclear weapons, North Korea, the world's fifth largest military power, has ballistic missiles capable of striking the United States, along with 5,000 tons of chemical warheads and at least two to three biological warheads, Yoo said. *AP*

PCOM focuses on emerging global occupational health issues on its 25th year

The Philippine College of Occupational Medicine (PCOM) will mark its 25th anniversary with its National Annual Convention on February 23-25, 2003 at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel.

The convention theme, **"Emerging Global Occupational Health Issues"** will be discussed by experts in the fields of information technology, disaster preparedness against terrorism, travel medicine, environmental management systems, biotechnology, corporate skills for occupational physicians, alternative medicine, trends in health assessment vis-a-vis work assignment, and updates in the fight against TB.

Honorable Roco

The Overall Convention Chair is Dr. Jose C. Baylon, who is assisted by Co-Chairs Dr. Oscar D. Tinio and Dr. Marilou D. Renales.

All practicing occupational physicians are enjoined to attend this conference to be led by the members of the 14 PCOM chapters all over the country.

The keynote speaker for the Opening Ceremonies on February 24 will be the Honorable Raul S. Roco.

Secretary Dayrit

The Secretary of Health, Dr. Manuel Dayrit will be the guest of honor for the closing ceremonies on February 25.

The Dr. Gregorio Dizon Memorial Lecture will be on the evening of February 23.

A bowling tournament at the MegaMall bowling lanes at 9 a.m. and a golf tournament, at 1:00 p.m. of February 23, will usher the convention activities.

Fellowship and camaraderie will be renewed and enhanced on the evening of February 24. Delegates are requested to wear something silver for this event as PCOM is celebrating its silver anniversary.

The PNP Band will provide ballroom dancing music so dancing partners of delegates are welcome.

The convention fee is P2,000.00 for members and P2,500.00 for non-members.

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SESSION II: International Direction on Occupational Health (OH)

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SESSION III: National Direction on OH

Emerging Issues in Occupational Health/Medicine Practice

National OH Program

The Antihypertensive Lipid-Lowering Treatment to Prevent Heart Attack Trial – A Focus on the Antihypertensive Arm

SESSION III-A: National Direction on OH

OH Research & Development Trends in both Formal and Informal Sector

Updates on Legislation

Updates on Medical Malpractice

FEBRUARY 25

SESSION IV: Issues Faced by Employee Compensation Agencies
SSS, GSIS, ECC, PHIC

SESSION V: Issues Faced by Stakeholders
Employee's Confederation of the Philippines

Occupational Health Services: Concerns on HMO & Emerging OH Clinics

SESSION VI: EMERGING GLOBAL OH ISSUES
Solving the Puzzles of AOD

Disaster Preparedness for Global Terrorism

Travel Medicine Issues

Hepatitis: An Emerging Occupational Health Concern

Anxiety in the Workplace

SESSION VII: Technological Development

Genomic Medicine

Periodic Health Examinations

Diagnostic Updates: Spiral CT Scan

IT Updates

Role of Statins in the Management of Dyslipidemia

SESSION VIII: OH Trends and Issues
Updates in Occupational CA

Occupational, Environmental Health and Safety: Risk Assessment, Management and Communication

Health Promotion on Lifestyle-Related Diseases

Occupational Neurotoxicology

Immunization Program: Cost Benefit Analysis

Disability Evaluation and Rehabilitation in the Workplace

Reproductive Issues in the Workplace

SESSION IX: Professional Development of OH Physicians
Seven Effective Habits by Steven Covey

Leadership

Time Management

Advt.

China aims 75 more missiles a year at Taiwan—Pentagon

WASHINGTON—China is adding at least 75 ballistic missiles a year to its arsenal and is likely to have fielded 600 against Taiwan by 2005, the Pentagon's Taiwan desk officer said in remarks made public on Thursday.

"Taiwan faces the most daunting conventional ballistic missile threat in the world," said Air Force Lt. Col. Mark Stokes, the Pentagon official.

Stokes made his remarks to a privately organized, closed-door US-Taiwan defense industry conference held in San Antonio, Texas, from Feb. 12 to 14. A copy of his presentation was made available to Reuters by the Pentagon.

At the conference, Bush administration officials urged Taiwan to move forward quickly with antimissile systems, notably Lockheed Martin Corp.'s Patriot PAC-3, to counter the Chinese buildup in the short- and mid-term.

Richard Lawless, the Pentagon's top policymaker on the region, said China was working on multiple ways to "coerce" Taiwan and that surprise and speed could render any U.S. military assistance ineffective.

"Taiwan cannot rely on the United States to defend the island against (Chinese) conventional ballistic and land attack cruise missiles, particularly in the opening phases of a conflict," he said.

China regards Taiwan as a rogue province that must be united with the mainland, by force if necessary. Stokes said Taiwan's political and military leadership were vulnerable to "decapitation."

In addition to its ballistic-missile buildup, Beijing is expected to deploy first-generation cruise missiles designed to attack land targets before 2005, Stokes said.

Beside the Patriot PAC-3 system, another short- to mid-term option for Taiwan could be the Arrow missile interceptor, developed jointly by Israel and the United States and declared operational in October 2000, Stokes said.

Other options included upgrading Taiwan's Tien-Jung 2A interceptors, reported to have been tested in 1998, and obtaining surface-launched US-built AMRAAM missiles, he said.

The United States is weighing a Taiwan request for immediate delivery of Raytheon Corp.-built AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air missiles purchased in 2000. The missiles were to be stored in the United States until or unless China fielded a similar air-to-air system, something it may have since done, US officials have said. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

There is alternative to war, say leaders

PARIS—French and African leaders on Friday were to wrap up a two-day summit, focused on Paris's special partnership with the continent, after forming a united front against US calls for war in Iraq. Africa's full endorsement of French President Jacques Chirac's position on the Iraq crisis came amid a firestorm of controversy over the participation of Zimbabwe's authoritarian President Robert Mugabe in the biennial gathering. The 52 African nations attending the 22nd Franco-African summit, which opened on Thursday, backed France's call for continued and intensified UN weapons inspections in Iraq and urged Baghdad to show active cooperation. "There is an alternative to war," the nations said in a joint declaration. "The use of force, which entails serious risks of destabilization for the region, for Africa and the world, should only be a last resort." *AFP*

US arrests Islamic Jihad members

WASHINGTON—A US federal grand jury has charged eight leaders of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad with running a criminal enterprise that supported terrorists and conspired to kill others, including two US citizens, Attorney General John Ashcroft said Thursday. Among those named in the indictment dated Wednesday was Damascus-based Islamic Jihad leader Ramadan Abdullah Shallah and Sami al-Arian, a controversial University of South Florida engineering professor described by US authorities as leader of the Gaza-based group in North America. "The Palestinian Islamic Jihad is one of the most violent terrorist organizations in the world," Ashcroft said at a news conference announcing the indictments. *AFP*

Pakistan mourns air crash dead

ISLAMABAD—Flags flew at half mast across Pakistan Friday as the nation observed a day of mourning for its air force chief and 16 people killed in the worst air tragedy since military ruler General Zia ul Haq died in a plane crash in 1988. An air force Fokker F-27 carrying Air Chief Marshal Mushaf Ali, his wife and 15 senior air force officers and technicians came down in foggy weather early Thursday in mountains near the town of Kohat in northwest Pakistan, where Ali was heading to conduct an inspection ceremony at the local air force base. All 17 passengers and crew were killed. *AFP*

Police probe negligence in subway fire

TAEGU, South Korea—South Korean police said on Friday that they were investigating the possibility of negligence among subway staff after the arson attack in Taegu, which killed at least 133 people and left scores missing. "We are investigating the possibility of negligence" among officials involved, Cho Doo-won, the Taegu police official heading the investigation, told a news conference. He said police were considering questioning all subway officials linked to the disaster, but said it was too early to say when or whether charges would be laid. Cho said the investigation was also focusing on a masterkey that subway officials said could have been crucial in opening the doors of the second train involved in the inferno in the absence of power. "Subway officials and experts said that the doors could close if the masterkey is removed," he added. "We are currently investigating the possibility of withholding and tampering of evidence," Cho said. *Reuters*

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Strike looms in Luzon's biggest sugar processor

By Jo Clemente
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC CITY—While former Tarlac Rep. Jose Cojuangco Jr., now presidential adviser on food security and job creation, is finding ways to improve food production in the country and create jobs for the people, workers from his own family's Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT) are poised to strike over alleged unfair labor practices.

If pushed through, the strike is also likely to cut short this year's milling season and affect the production of sugar, a prime food commodity.

According to Ricardo Ramos, CAT Labor Union president, the workers are now in the prescribed seven-day cooling off period following a strike vote on Tuesday where 661 of 748 union members decided to go on strike.

Ramos told the INQUIRER that management had violated at least six provisions of the collective bargaining agreement on security of tenure and health benefits.

Management denied violating any provision of the CBA.

According to Romy Ecraela, CAT corporate affairs manager, the issues raised by the union did not merit a strike and should have been discussed at the grievance committee level.

Walkout

However, while these were being discussed, some workers went out to air their grievances, Ecraela said. He said management saw this as a manifestation of loss of confidence in the process.

He said this prompted management to seek preventive mediation by the DOLE on Jan. 31.

Ecraela also said the Feb. 5 notice of strike filed by the union was not based on the alleged CBA violations but was a reaction to negotiations on the composition of the grievance committee.

He said the union wanted the grievance committee to be composed of 10 members from each side while the CBA only allowed three.

To accommodate their request, Ecraela said management acceded to have five each. They, however, did not agree to the union's proposal to have officers and leaders of the union to be present on company time during hearings at the NCMB to which the union, he said, adversely reacted.

Ecraela said the union leaders walked out of that meeting and proceeded to file the notice of strike.

According to Ramos, vacant regular positions are no longer being filled up while some regular positions are being downgraded to seasonal positions.

Free hospitalization benefits such as confinements and take home medicines are also being withdrawn, he said. These, he said, are included in their three-year CBA, which is to expire in June 2004.

A notice of strike was filed by the union before the Department of Labor and Employment on Feb. 5.

Ramos said the presence of officers on company time is allowed by the CBA.

Transparency

He also said the presence of these leaders is necessary for purposes of transparency.

According to Ramos, they are ready to go on strike "for as long as it takes" until all their demands are met. Management, on the other hand, is not about to give up its hiring prerogatives, Ecraela said.

If this happens, it will adversely affect a large segment of the workers at the Hacienda Luisita as well as the sugar supply in the region.

As one of the biggest sugar centrals in the country, the CAT supplies majority of the sugar requirements of Luzon. The sugar central can mill sugar canes at 300 tons per hour while its refinery can produce about 2,500 bags per hour.

According to Ecraela, this season's target is 100,000 tons of sugarcane and they have so far milled 85 percent of the target.

However, sugar planters are more worried about the situation because the canes are still lined up for milling at the hacienda.

Most of Central Luzon's sugar mills had already ceased operation and the closest possible alternative is in Batangas.

Escraela said that if the strike should push through, the company would suffer from an "unrealized income" of P15.1 million per day from tolling fees and the production of raw sugar, molasses, alcohol and liquid carbon dioxide.

In addition, he said, if work should stop, 538.652 tons of raw sugar already under processing at the raw sugar factory would be spoiled, resulting in the loss of more than P8 million.

He said more than 50,000 plantation, factory and other workers, including their families, would be adversely affected by the impending strike: *With reports from Russell Arador and Ronald Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Dutch investor slams deportation from RP

GLAN, Sarangani Province—A Dutch investor here assailed the deportation order against him saying it could be part of a series of harassment he had suffered from the hands of local officials.

Johan Louis Kooring is now back in The Netherlands after agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation forced him to board a flight out of the country on Feb. 3.

Kooring owns a posh hotel-resort complex being constructed in Barangay Taluya here, where he had resided for the past five years.

Speaking through his lawyer, Kooring said the BID never got his side when it decided to forcibly send him out of the country.

Kooring said BID agents insisted that the deportation order was based on resolutions passed by the Sangguniang Bayan of Glan, including one declaring him *persona non-grata*.

He said they would not listen to his arguments.

On Monday morning, Mariano Alegarbes, Kooring's legal counsel, filed a petition asking the court to void the BID's blacklist order.

In his petition, Alegarbes also asked the court to restrain, prevent and prohibit the BID from enforcing the order "so as not to cause grave prejudice and incalculable damage" to his client.

Aside from reversing the BID order, Alegarbes said Kooring wanted the court to slap P1.5 million in damages and litigation expenses against BID and town officials here.

He argued that Kooring suffered so much when the construction of his P350-million hotel-resort complex was stalled. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Negros strike enters 2nd day

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Public transport in major routes in Negros Occidental remained paralyzed yesterday on the second day of protest by drivers groups against the conduct of smoke emission tests.

Jessie Ortega, secretary general of the United Negros Drivers Operators Center (Undoc), said more drivers participated in the strike yesterday because the protest action affected 95 percent of public transportation in the province compared to Thursday's 90 percent.

Senior Supt. Vicente Ponteras, Negros Occidental police director, however, said only 50 percent of public transportation was affected by the strike.

Although only a few jeeps and taxis were seen plying the city streets, traffic was still heavy in Bacolod because of private vehicles.

Businesses and government offices were open although most schools were closed. The University of St. La Salle, which suspended classes on Thursday, resumed classes yesterday.

The Undoc and the Federation of Bacolod City Drivers Associations (FBCDA), the two biggest groups of drivers in the province, were demanding the immediate stop to the smoke emission tests, which is required by the Clean Air Act.

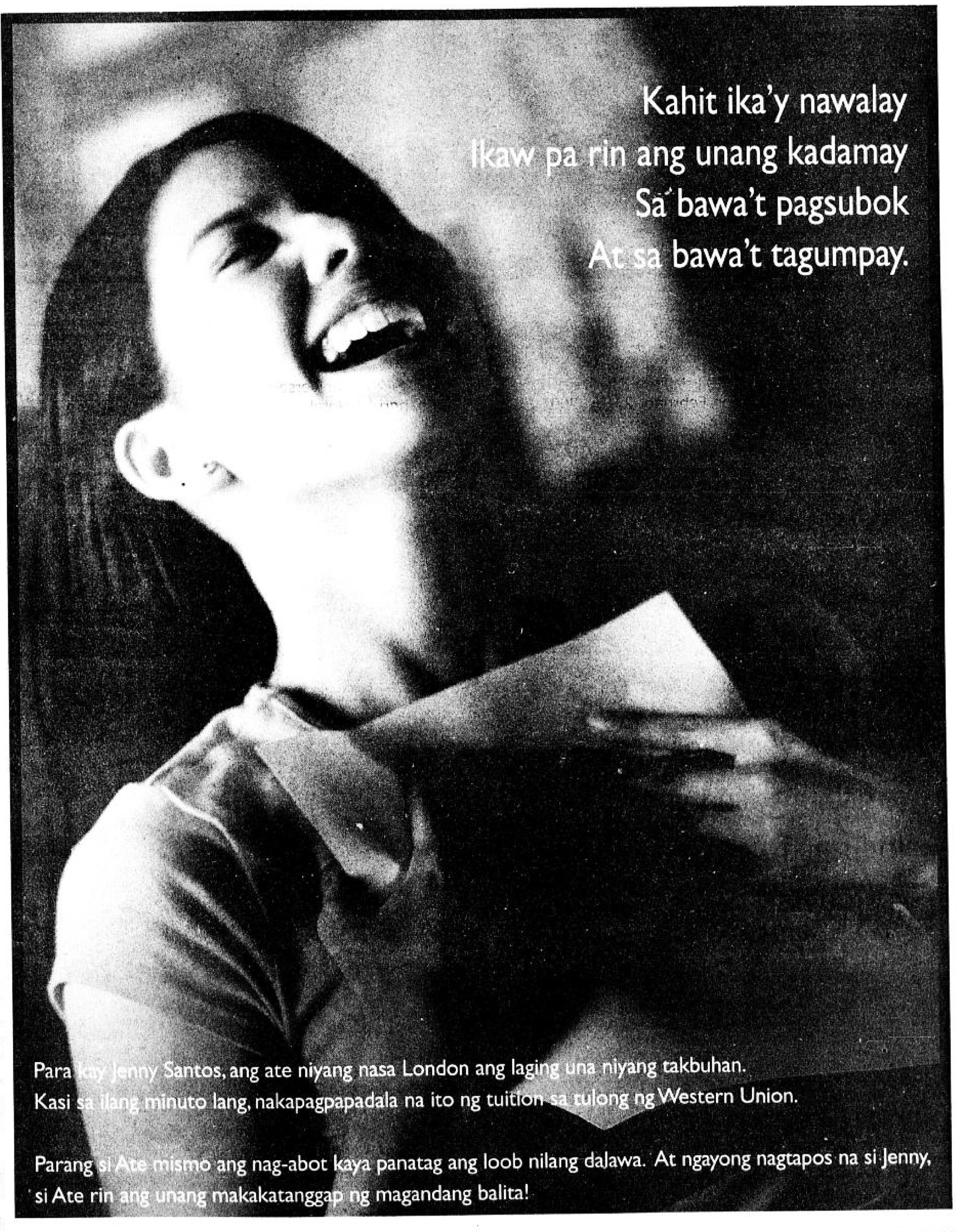
The transport groups said public utility vehicle owners are already saddled with burdens like road user's tax, insurance fees, smoke tests, drug tests and other requirements.

PUV owners are currently charged P250 for the tests. The fee is P330 for private cars and P440 for trucks. If a vehicle fails the first test, another test will cost the same.

On Wednesday, Land Transportation Office head Roberto Lastimoso issued a moratorium on the smoke emission tests in Bacolod and Negros Occidental.

He also set a dialogue with the transport groups on Feb. 24 at the Provincial Administration Center in Bacolod City.

Despite the moratorium, Ortega said they pushed through with the two-day strike because Lastimoso acted in bad faith when he did not specify the date of the tests' suspension.



Para kay Jenny Santos, ang ate niyang nasa London ang laging una niyang takbuhan.
Kasi sa ilang minuto lang, nakapagpapadala na ito ng tuition sa tulong ng Western Union.

Parang si Ate mismo ang nag-abot kaya panatag ang loob nilang dalawa. At ngayong nagtapos na si Jenny, si Ate rin ang unang makakatanggap ng magandang balita!

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Guingona warns vs US role in hunt for Sayyaf

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Vice President Teofisto Guingona warned of the risks of joint military exercises between American and Filipino soldiers because the rules governing the war games are not specific about banning American troopers from joining the hunt for suspected terrorists.

Guingona said in an interview with Cebu City based radio station dyLA on Wednesday that American soldiers should not be allowed to join patrol operations against the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf in Sulu.

"The joint military exercises in Sulu has so far, no terms of reference. It is dangerous because when the American soldiers join in the patrols, they might become combatants," Guingona said.

Guingona said the rules for the Balikatan 02-1 exercises in Basilan could not be used for this year's Balikatan exercises.

Under the rules of the Basilan exercises, Guingona said it was specified, among others, that the exercises should be for six months, only 160 US Marines should participate and that no patrol operations would be conducted.

The joint exercises in Sulu did not specify how many troopers would participate and how long the exercise would take, he said.

Guingona, however, said the exercises should not have been held in Sulu but in a safe place without civilian population like Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

He said he suspected that the real motive behind the holding of the exercises in Sulu was to run after the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf.

But the Vice President said war might escalate in Sulu if US soldiers join patrol operations with Filipino soldiers.

Guingona said an exchange of gunfire between the Abu Sayyaf and US soldiers is likely.

While he agreed that the Abu Sayyaf should be wiped out, Guingona said the American soldiers should not participate in military operations.

He said there was no need to train Filipino soldiers because they had been trained already.

"If they were trained last year, there must be better soldiers now, and these better soldiers can now handle the Abu Sayyaf," he said.

"But until now the training is still going on,'" he said laughing.

Guingona said in jest that instead of the Filipinos being trained by Americans, American soldiers were the ones being trained by the local soldiers.

He said he heard that an American soldier lamented after the exercises last year that the Filipino soldiers were good jungle fighters.

'My mind is now at peace': A sentimental journey

By Jovelyn Reyes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

A JOURNEY in search of memories. Descendants of Japanese residents of Baguio make a sentimental trip to the birthplace of their fathers and mothers before peace was torn by World War II.
TOOTS SOBERANO

BAGUIO CITY—Kenichi Matsuoka, 85, arrived in the country's summer capital for two sentimental reasons: Join the centennial celebration of the construction of Kennon Road and visit the grave of his mother at the public cemetery here.

Matsuoka was born in Baguio in 1918 to Japanese parents Rioku and Kuyuki. Rioku was one of the 2,300 Japanese laborers who built the historic Kennon Road in 1903.

Matsuoka, the oldest among the 200 descendants who attended the celebration here on Thursday, also met the oldest Igorot-Japanese descendant of Sagada, Mt. Province.

She is Meleca Sagwaden who was born in 1918 to Masataro Oshikawa, one of the Japanese laborers, and an Igorot mother.

Matsuoka and Sagwaden have no memory of the Kennon Road construction but both agreed on one thing: "Our ancestors experienced the hardest job. They had to work manually. Most of them were plain laborers."

Sagwaden said he remembered her father telling her that many Japanese laborers died in the construction of Kennon Road, which was described as "an engineering marvel" when it was finished in 1905.

Carlos Teraoka, Chair of the Filipino-Japanese Foundation of Northern Luzon, said half of the more than 2,000 Japanese laborers died of sickness while working on the road.

"A century had since passed but the memory remains in us," he said.

The Japanese descendants also inaugurated the Kennon Pavilion as a tribute to their ancestors.

Matsuoka's son had been visiting places here since Tuesday "to help my father recall the details of his stay here."

But Matsuoka said he has little memory of the city, having left the country when he was only six years old.

The younger Matsuoka, who is documenting the visit to the Philippines, said his father wanted to trace their roots, including the house where he was born 85 years ago.

He started making a personal documentation of their visit. In one account, the younger Matsuoka wrote: "My grandfather also told me that Baguio was a very famous city for summer resorts, and there was frost one or two times a year.

"There is a big road named Benguet Street that many Japanese engineers worked to construct.

Matsuoka said he recalled helping his father tend the garden of the presidential summerhouse, now popularly known as the Mansion here.

He said they were prohibited from entering the Mansion "(but) my father recalled that Aguinaldo and Quezon stayed there a few days in a year."

The Matsuokas also visited the tomb of his grandmother, Kuyuki, who died in 1922, at the Baguio cemetery.

They also had their pictures taken at the Benguet Pine Studio, the same studio that took their old family pictures more than 80 years ago.

The younger Matsuoka said: "We were not sure if we found the correct residence of my ancestors. What my father remembered was they used to grow so many cabbages in their backyard, which we suspected to be in nearby La Trinidad but when we visited the place, my father seemed to have no memory of the place."

But his father added: "I feel happy to be back (in the city). My mind is now at peace."

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Cops bare murder plot vs Tarlac town mayor

CAPAS, Tarlac—Police started securing the municipal hall after a plan to assassinate the mayor here was unveiled early this week.

A report from the provincial intelligence and investigation branch (PIIB) in Camp Macabulos confirmed that a plan to assassinate Mayor Reynaldo Catacutan would be carried out by members of Bagis Gang.

The group operates in Central and Northern Luzon and is believed to be involved in drug trafficking.

According to the PIIB report, the plan to kill Catacutan was hatched in 2002 by members of the Bagis Gang. Most of them formerly belonged to the Cordillera People's Liberation Army.

The report said in January this year, Catacutan's house was cased by the gang members led by a certain Budong.

"A businessman from Camiling is reportedly behind the assassination plot against Catacutan. An advanced payment in the form of two cal. .45 pistols and two M-16 rifles were already handed by the businessman to the group while the final payment of P500,000 would be given upon accomplishing the mission," the report said.

The report did not name the businessman involved.

"My town has been a transit point of drugs from Northern Luzon," Catacutan, 37, told reporters here on Wednesday.

"I have become a virtual prisoner in my town because wherever I go, I have security aides with me. My house and the road leading to it are secured by the police," he added.

In October last year, Catacutan joined a police team that raided a house where dried marijuana leaves were believed stored.

The raid led to a high-speed shooting chase along the national highway. The suspects in motorbikes eluded police.

Police, however, arrested some marijuana buyers in three jeeps and 10 tricycles.

"We did not know then that we are actually up against the notorious Bagis Gang," Catacutan said.

A deep penetration agent of the police in the gang said they thrice missed assassinating Catacutan. The agent said the first attempt was in November last year in Baguio City but the mayor escaped the hit squad after he left his hotel room two hours before the assassins came.

The second attempt was made also in November when Catacutan was scheduled to take a flight outside Manila. His flight was delayed for a day.

A third attempt was to have taken place in December during a midnight Mass. *Ronaldo Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Dolphins seeking shelter in fishing town butchered

DAGUPAN CITY—It was a sad ending for three dolphins that beached on Wednesday morning in Tondol Beach in Anda town. Fishermen slaughtered them.

Ronnie Andajer, 37, a Bantay Dagat volunteer, said the fishermen were on their way to the sea when they spotted the three dolphins some 500 meters away from the shore.

Andajer claimed that the dolphins, which were about a kilometer from each other, were already dead when the fishermen saw them.

Some residents took photographs of the giant sea mammals and decided to butcher them. They divided the meat among them.

Westly Rosario, chief of the Dagupan Research Center of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, said it was possible that the dolphins were still alive but weak when they beached.

"They could not be dead yet, because if they were dead . . . they would have been already smelly and the fishermen could not butcher them anymore," he said.

Rosario said dolphins and sea mammals usually beach when they are sick, hurt or if are seeking shelter.

They also usually go to areas where food like small shrimps and squid abound.

"It is very unfortunate that the villagers butchered them because we are trying to identify the species of the dolphins that travel in the Lingayen Gulf," he said.

Two years ago, 11 spinner dolphins (Stenella longinostris) were found by fishermen in Sabangan River in Dagupan City.

Four months later, a Risso's dolphin (Grampus griseus) beached in San Fabian town. Its body had bullet wounds, which could have been inflicted by illegal fishermen.

After being treated by the BFAR, it was sent back to the sea. It returned the next day and was butchered by villagers. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Armed men kill 4

SAN CARLOS CITY—Four people, including a five-year-old boy, were shot and killed by armed men in Barangay Malacañang here on Sunday night. Police identified them as Sixto Bulatao, 41; Miguelito Yadao, 39, and his son, Ron John, 5; and Pepito Wardi, all residents of Barangay Abanon here. The victims were on board a motorcycle and were on their way home when the suspects attacked them. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Rapist arrested

CABARROGUIS, Quirino—Police arrested an 18-year-old man for allegedly raping and killing a 13-year-old girl in Maddela town last week. Senior Supt. Manuel de los Reyes, Quirino police director, said the body of Sionie Aron, 13, was found in a forested area in Sitio Sangayde in Barangay Villa Gracia. He said Aron's relatives reported that the girl failed to return home after she was asked to buy vinegar on Feb. 9. Denlos Reyes said the suspect admitted that he raped and killed Aron. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Gun makers nabbed

CABANATUAN CITY—Policemen arrested three suspected illegal gun makers and traders in Sto. Domingo town on Tuesday, reports here said. Arrested were Dionisio Rarama, 62; Maximo Dagdagan, 52; and Reynaldo Cena, 42, all of Sto. Domingo town. Reports said a police agent, who posed as a buyer, was able to buy a gun from the suspects at P1,500. Seized from the suspects were several guns and other paraphernalia used in manufacturing guns and bullets. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Militiaman killed

DAVAO CITY—A member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit was killed while two others were hurt when a grenade was lobbed inside a videoke bar in Monkayo, Compostela Valley on Monday night. Killed was Glen Abrazaldo while injured were Jocelyn Gasing and Filry Felicilda. The victims were inside the Gasing Videoke at around 7 p.m. Monday when an unidentified man hurled a grenade. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Firearms seized

DAVAO CITY—Police seized several firearms from an alleged arms cache at the Fortune Homes Subdivision here on Tuesday. But the suspect, Salvador Obiano, denied that he maintained an arms cache. He said the guns were left to him by the Spear Security Agency where he worked as a cashier. The agency stopped operating in December. Senior Insp. Fungencio Pavo, chief of the Heinous Crime and Investigation Section of the Davao City Police Command, said Obiano was believed to be engaged in gun-running. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

2 NPA rebels slain

CATBALOGAN, Samar—A squad leader and another fighter of the New People's Army were killed in a fierce fight with government troops in Barangay Birawan, Daram, Samar Friday night. Big. Gen. Glenn Rabonza, commanding general of the Philippine Army's 8th Infantry Division, said the fatality was Vicente Saladaga alias Itik and Flor. The other slain rebel was not identified. The military recovered an Ingram Marrietta sub-machine pistol, a .45 caliber pistol, one long magazine for M-16 rifle, one magazine for .45 caliber pistol and communist documents. No one was wounded on the government side. The cadavers of the slain rebels were turned over to village officials of Birawan, the military said. *Marc Villavicencio, PDI Visayas Bureau*

E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net
INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel ◎ Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Ati folk of Boracay fear paradise loss

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan

FOR THOSE weary of urban life and its accompanying traffic jams, pollution and stifling heat, Boracay Island is paradise. Its 4-km stretch of pristine white beaches and clear waters have made it one of the best beaches in the world.

Boracay has drawn tourists from all over the world, many of whom have settled on the island or put up resorts, restaurants and diving schools.

But barely a kilometer from the white beach stretch, dark-skinned, kinky-haired and half-naked children play in a dusty road near a cluster of shanties. They are the children of Ati families, considered to be among the first inhabitants of the island.

Once the masters of the island before its natural beauty was "discovered" in the 1970s, the Atis are in danger of losing their homes and heritage.

Sr. Cristita Valdez, head of the Holy Rosary Parish Ati Mission (HRPAM), said that since the middle of 2000, the Atis have been told to leave their community in Sitio Bolabog in Barangay Balabag, one of the three villages of Boracay.

The community occupies an area of about one hectare at the opposite side of the white beach. The homes of eight families and the HRPAM sit on a lot owned by the family of Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores, while the rest of the families occupy part of a land owned by Aniceto Yap, brother of provincial board member Jose Yap.

Thirty-three families and around 150 Atis now live in Bolabog. Most of the men work in resorts as carpenters or utility workers, while the women do laundry services.

The Atis claim that they were the original inhabitants of the island before the "Bisayas" (their term for outsiders) came and occupied it. While they reside in Boracay, many of the Atis went to Negros Island to work as *sacadas* (seasonal sugar workers) and returned to the island after the milling season. Still many others stayed in Malay town in the mainland.

Stewards

The Atis have no concept of individual land ownership of land, believing that they are mere stewards of nature's bounty. They realized only later that their view was not shared by the "Bisayas" who took over parcels of land where the early Ati generations once roamed freely.

"No one owned the island and we farmed anywhere," remembered Eduardo Supetran, the oldest member of the Atis. He does not remember his age; according to his children, he is 89 years old.

EDUARDO Supetran, the oldest member of the Ati tribe. NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.

Before they were "driven away by the Bisayas," Supetran said, the island was covered with trees, bushes and coconut fields where the Atis practiced *kaingin* (slash-and-burn farming).

Supetran said their ancestors named the island and the three villages. Boracay came from the words "*bora*" (bubbles) and "*bocay*" (white) because the Ati elders were amazed at the white sand that resembled water bubbles.

"*Balabag*" means barrier in Ati language because the village is situated in a hilly area that appears like a divider at the center of the island. Another village, shaped like a rooster, was named Manoc-Manoc while the third village was named Yapac (footsteps).

Life for the Atis changed radically starting in the mid-1970s when the tourists started coming, said Supetran's daughter, Perla Tambuon.

"Cottages were put up and we were driven away because our children were considered a disturbance to tourists," she said.

Gradually, the Atis were pushed inland, away from the beach stretch and to the hills until these, too, were appropriated by private buyers and by giant companies.

The claim of the Atis has been supported with documents prepared by the nuns of the HRPAM, as well as government agencies.

The mission, put up by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul in 2000, has been helping the Atis to acquire a permanent residential land in the island. It had identified areas where the earliest Ati settlers lived and surveyed their hunting and burial grounds based on the accounts of the Atis.

Original inhabitants

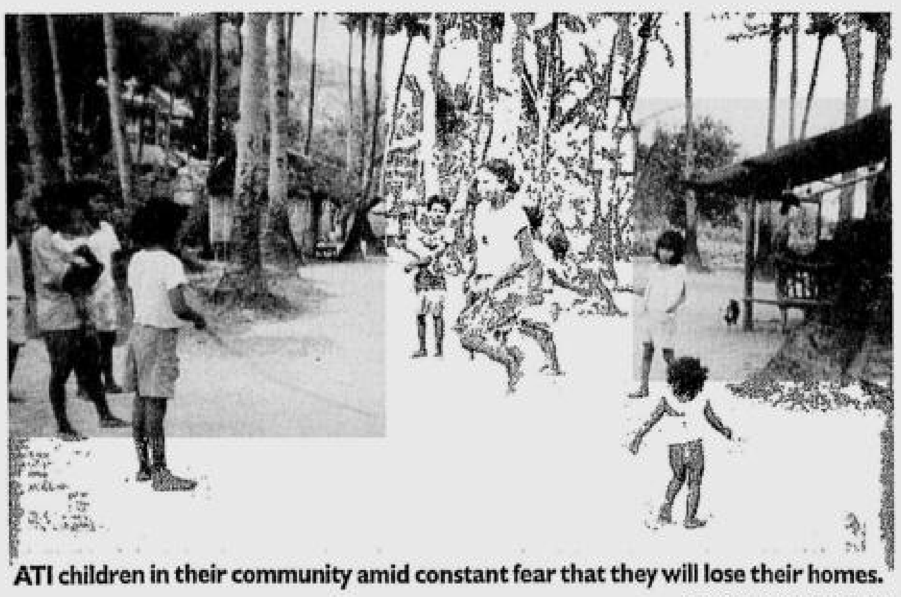
In a report presented to the National Anti-Poverty Commission in 2000, the Philippine Association for Intercultural Development (Pafid) said more than 20 Atis were living in Boracay before tourists started flocking to the island.

Alfonso Catolin, regional director of the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP), said there was proof that the Atis were the original inhabitants.

With the help of the HRPAM, the Atis have repeatedly sought the help of government agencies and politicians. They have applied for a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) on Feb. 23, 2000 to prevent their ejection.

Catolin said he had already endorsed the application to the NCIP national office and recommended that the Atis be allowed to permanently stay in their present location or be given an alternative site on the island.

The NCIP regional office is waiting for a directive from its central office to conduct a validation of proofs supporting the Atis' claim and the identification of land boundaries. The agency also needs to survey the area and to hold consultations with concerned agencies.



ATI children in their community amid constant fear that they will lose their homes. PHOTO COURTESY OF HRPAM

Lagtum Pasag, NCIP commissioner for island provinces covering Mindoro, Palawan, Romblon and the Visayas, said the commission was deliberating on Administrative Order No. 4, which mandates the processing of the Ati claim.

During a visit to Boracay, then President Joseph Estrada assured the Atis that his administration would help them secure land tenure and improve their socioeconomic situation. But Delsa Justo, president of the Bolabog Ati Tribal Council, said: "Many officials have assured us that we will have land to stay but we have not received any proof until now."

Ownership dispute

A major obstacle in resolving the Atis' problem is the question of land ownership.

Under Proclamation No. 1801, which was signed on Nov. 10, 1978 by then President Ferdinand Marcos, Boracay Island was declared a tourist zone and marine reserve. The land was technically categorized as public-owned and the government has the prerogative to manage and utilize its resources, according to Catolin.

In a report to the NCIP central office, Catolin said that purchasing the land from private claimants could be "a bad precedent, with the government buying its own land from the claimants."

He cited the proposal of the Pafid to either grant outright the CADT to the Atis or enter into an interim arrangement between the parties involved until the grant of a permanent settlement is settled.

Governor Miraflores said landowners are questioning Proclamation 1801. He said some land parcels were covered by titles dating back to the Spanish period while others had only tax declaration receipts.

The proclamation is also considered "a big stumbling block in attracting investments" because resort owners cannot use their property as collateral for loans. Miraflores said the landowners were urging that the island be declared "alienable and disposable."

"The claim of Atis adds confusion to the already confused situation," the governor said. But he said there are several options to provide a permanent place for the Atis after the original settlers are identified.

Miraflores said the government could identify a suitable land and ask donations from private owners like Ayala Corp., which owns a sizable area on the island.

Another option is to develop a site in Barangay Cogon in Malay where the Atis in Boracay could be relocated.

Provincial board member Yap said they would allow the Atis to stay on his brother's land but only until it is sold. He said they would agree to sell the land to the government as a permanent site for the Atis.

Yap is contesting the claim of the Atis. He said Eduardo Supetran and his family were the only original inhabitants of the island, while the other Ati families moved to Boracay from Malay and other areas in Aklan.

But for Atis like Justo, there is no other home but Boracay. "We were born here and our elders told us not to leave this place."

Appeals unanswered

Justo said they wanted to remain in the present location because most of them depend on fishing for their livelihood. But she said they would have no choice when the owner would ask them to leave.

The Atis have written several times to Estrada and later to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In one letter to Ms Macapagal dated Feb. 6, they again appealed for government action. "If foreigners and politicians who do not live here are given land, why can't we own even a small parcel of land?" they said.

Kalibo Bishop Gabriel M. Reyes has also asked for the government's support in providing a permanent housing area for the Atis. Reyes had asked the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul to put up the mission to help the Atis.

"It is unfair that first inhabitants of the island would be deprived of land just because they are poor and uneducated," said Reyes.

The bishop recalled that Estrada promised to give land to the Atis when he visited the island. But he said they feared that the project would not be given priority or, worse, shelved, by the present administration.

They want a guarantee or concrete proof that the claim of the Atis will be processed, he said.

Valdez of the HRPAM said the Atis were "gems of Boracay that should be part of any development plan but they are usually considered eyesores and bad for tourism."

The situation of the Atis has attracted a lot of attention from politicians and from media organizations. Still, everyday they face their worst fear of being told to leave their homes.

"We want to stay together so that we can take care of our children and so that we will not be disturbed," said Justo. "We were born here and our elders told us we even named the island but we don't have even a small part of it."

Big money

Last year, nearly 300,000 foreign and domestic tourists visited Boracay. The slight decrease in tourist arrivals from Europe has been offset by a sharp increase in arrivals of Korean and Filipino tourists.

Tourists poured more than P5 billion into the economy. Gross income from Boracay visitors has averaged nearly P3.5 billion yearly for the past six years, according to records of the Department of Tourism.

This is proof that the island remains a top tourist destination despite the threats of terror attacks worldwide.

For many, Boracay is paradise but to the Atis it is still home to be reclaimed.

BIENVENIDA Salibio, member of the Ati council of elders points to a spot in Hambaluron, the former burial ground of their tribe. PHOTO COURTESY OF HRPAM

A good fight

LUCID INTERVAL

Rowena V. Guanzon

I HAVE heard horror stories of Department of Education superintendents requiring an applicant for a teaching job to dance on the table in her underwear, or a public school principal kissing a Grade 6 pupil, or one who gets a percentage from the salaries of newly hired teachers.

But no one was caught as red-handed as the recently dismissed schools division superintendent Eutiquio Quiton, Ph.D. The Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas dismissed Quiton for grave misconduct.

It is rare for teachers to go against their superintendent, but between him and the courageous principals and Edith Abalos, the complainant, there is no love lost.

Quiton replaced Dr. Ester Autajay, who moved to her hometown in Aklan. During Autajay's term, the Schools Division of Cadiz City in Negros Occidental often placed sixth in the Regional Achievement Test. With Quiton, Cadiz placed second to the last in 2001. Not that he cares; he was often not in Cadiz, going there only about four days a month.

An absentee superintendent can be tolerated, but a corrupt one should not.

Violating the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (now DepEd) order that only reviewers for the National Secondary Admission Test and the Elementary Admission Test prepared by the National Education Testing and Research Center can be used, Quiton sold to the City of Cadiz reviewers which he authored, for a horrendous sum of P1.7 million.

Your honors, here is a superintendent who authored, with copyright, reviewers that he maneuvered to be sold to him, using the money of the Special Education Fund of which he is the co-chair. Maybe he thought everyone would turn a blind eye because he was powerful.

Well, not Abalos, 55, a Physical Education supervisor and teacher for 35 years. Team her up with a 77-year-old woman lawyer who took on the case for a kiss, and voila! Quiton got what he deserved.

Congratulations to Edith and the principals who testified, among other witnesses, Ed Siaton, Anadel Ramas and Remus Verdeflor, and to their lawyer, Elvira Villena-Guanzon.

The city auditor of Cadiz disallowed the P1.7 million. Shouldn't ex-Mayor Eduardo Varela be liable for this, too? Varela was also sued by city health employees he illegally dismissed and who won their case. In Cadiz, people are not afraid to sue the powerful.

* * *

In Bacolod City, in just five months, the case of an 18-year-old girl who was raped by inmates in a police "holding" cell was decided by Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Edgar Garvilles, convicting the accused. The college girl was not able to pay the Eukarmille Internet so she was jailed for estafa. The male inmates were not locked up and the policeman on duty had left his station.

Had Gabriela-Negros leader, lawyer Jocelle Batapa, not come to the aid of the girl, the story would have been buried, and the girl would have faced an uphill battle. Gabriela held a rally and the public was made aware of the case.

In rape cases, it is the woman's word against the rapist. But if the victim is credible and consistent, the rapist can be convicted without other witnesses. Victims often face the blame and stigma, and have to answer questions, such as "Why didn't you shout?" or "Why didn't you fight back?" or "What? And get killed or beaten up?"

Judge Garvilles rightly quoted Supreme Court cases in his decision that "the force need not be irresistible; all that is necessary is that the force used by the accused is sufficient to consummate his evil purpose or that it was successfully used."

It's combat, not exercise, for US troops

From page A1

will be involved in the planned offensive in Sulu, with much of the effort focused on the island of Jolo, the capital, according to the US officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Green Berets will be supported by about 400 more US troops based in Zamboanga, the officials said.

In addition to the US special operations forces and the support personnel, a team of about 1,000 Marines aboard US Navy ships off the coast of Sulu will be available to respond on short notice with air power, logistics help and medical aid.

The Marines are part of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit based in Okinawa, Japan, and their lead ship is the USS Essex based in Sasebo, Japan.

Malacañang announced Monday that President Macapagal-Arroyo had approved the holding in Jolo of Balikatan 03-1, purported to be a joint training exercise.

But CNN quoted one Pentagon official as saying Thursday: "This will be a no-holds-barred effort. This is not an exercise."

US officials said the offensive, to begin sometime in March at the Philippine government's choice, would go well beyond training to include direct combat roles for US forces.

One official said the purpose was to "disrupt and defeat the Abu Sayyaf." He said the effort had no time limit and would continue "as long as both sides agree it is necessary to accomplish the mission."

About 1,300 US troops are currently in the Philippines, most of them for a variety of military exercises.

But they include a 300-member joint special operations task force that is working to improve intelligence and provide other security assistance, including a program to train 14 Filipino light infantry battalions to fight terrorism.

Numbers

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Ms Macapagal declared an all-out war against the Abu Sayyaf in May 2001. Last week, the government expelled an Iraqi diplomat because of his alleged links with the bandit group.

The Abu Sayyaf is wanted for kidnapping and killing foreign and local tourists, including two Americans, and was blamed for a bombing in Zamboanga City on Oct. 2 that killed two Filipino civilians and a US Green Beret.

Deadly risks

But in expanding the war on terror to Jolo known for its lawlessness, American troops will face deadly risks and the same Moro unrest that led US Gen. John Pershing there a century ago and sparked the invention of the Colt .45 pistol.

Jolo has earned the tag "no man's land" for its violent hinterlands, chronic poverty and a history replete with tales of bloody wars between the native Tausug and foreign and local invaders.

Sakur Tan, a former governor of Sulu, once described the 894-square-kilometer sprawl of humid flatlands and mountain rainforests as a "sore small finger" that made the whole nation sick.

"Conditions [in Jolo] are not favorable to force protection," said a Philippine military intelligence officer who worked closely with the Americans here last year. "Military units are more prone to enemy observation and hostile fire. The Americans will have to work harder to maintain their zero-casualty in Basilan [site of Balikatan 02-1]. If the Americans will go to Jolo, they should prepare for the worst." *Inquirer wires*

Tausugs harbor grudge against US soldiers, warns MNLF leader

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

ONCE US soldiers set foot on Sulu, any distinction between armed groups there will be erased, the deputy secretary general for military affairs of the Moro National Liberation Front Executive Council of 15 warned yesterday.

Abuamri Taddik said thousands of Tausug were killed during the Filipino-American war, and that today's Tausug were always reminded of the number and names of the dead. He said that as a Tausug and an MNLF officer formerly active in the fight for self-determination, he knew that "the grudge is something that lives from generation to generation."

Taddik also said history books would show that 1,113 Tausug were killed on Mt. Talipao, 6,000 on Bud Dahu, 38 in Gumbo, and more than 800 on Mt. Langkuwasan during the war of 1913.

Some 30,000 loose firearms are believed to be in the hands of various armed groups in Sulu.

These groups include the Abu Sayyaf, MNLF-(Nur) Misuari faction, MNLF Executive Council faction, armed men maintained by local politicians, even ordinary farmers, Taddik said.

He warned that a Tausug with no alliance to any armed rebel group in the area could sacrifice his life just to kill one US soldier.

"For the Tausug, even if he is not a rebel, killing just one American soldier would make him a hero," he said, adding:

"If that happens, we expect that the US will retaliate, and what will happen next is unimaginable. As a Tausug, I do not wish to see my people displaced again by a war involving foreigners.

"The government should have considered the local culture and historical facts before allowing the presence of US troops in Sulu."

Col. Alexander Aleo, who last year hosted US Green Berets on Basilan and now heads an Army brigade on Sulu's capital Jolo, said the unlicensed firearms there were a key concern.

"The majority of the people here have firearms," he said.

Many of the guns are in the hands of an Abu Sayyaf faction, which two years ago raked in millions of dollars in ransom by kidnapping 21 Western tourists and Asian workers from Malaysia's Sipadan dive resort.

The bandit group used the cash to strengthen its arsenal with M-203 rocket-propelled grenades and 57mm and 90mm shoulder-fired recoilless rifles, which can blow up armored tanks, Aleo said.

Tales of how US occupation forces tried to quell Moro resistance bloodily in the early 1900s are becoming fodder for emerging opposition to a US military presence.

"The wounds over the massacre of our forefathers by the American colonialists have not been healed," said Temojin Tulawie, leader of a new group opposing the Americans' arrival. *With an AP report*

Texan general to call the shots in Balikatan 03-1

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his two stars last September.

Weber's assignment as commander of the American forces that will go after the Abu Sayyaf is, according to the New York Times, "a sign of the importance the Pentagon was placing on the mission."

Weber, 52, is a Marine to the core.

"We want to be challenged and we want to work. But . . . when we deploy, we work hard and lay it on the line," Weber had said of the 3rd Marine Division in an interview posted on the website of the US Marines in Japan.

That interview revealed how proud Weber was of his division.

"They're on the pointy edge of the spear and no matter what spectrum of warfare, conflict or humanitarian assistance, they're ready to go," Weber had said. "Deploying is our job. It's our business. That's what our commandant and the nation expect.

For his unit, Weber said, there was one primordial consideration: "Get the job done."

Military career

Weber graduated from the Texas A&M University and was commissioned as second lieutenant in 1972. His first unit was the 3rd Marine Division, serving as forward observer.

According to his official biography, he returned to the US from "overseas" in 1974, but there were no details from which country he had his foreign tour of duty.

Weber reported for duty as executive officer of the Headquarters Battery of the 1st Field Artillery Group at Twentynine Palms, California. He was posted in 1975 in Hawaii with the 12th Marines; he returned to the US in 1979.

He was back with the Marines in Okinawa in 1982. He returned to the US to serve on the staff of the US Naval Academy from 1983 to 1985.

Weber earned his master's in public policy and policy development from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin in 1986.

Weber, by then a lieutenant colonel, left the Marine Corps Headquarters in December 1989 to report to Quarry Heights, Panama as special assistant to the commander of the US Southern Command.

In 1992, he became commander of the 3rd Battalion, and a year later was promoted to full colonel. In June 1993, he was appointed commanding officer of the Marine Corps Artillery Detachment.

In 1996, he got another command, the 11th Marines. In February 1998, he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. In June that year he reported for duty as the deputy for operations of the US-European Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

Weber returned to the US in July 2000 to assume his duties as commanding general of the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command at Twentynine Palms, California.

Malacañang dismisses New York Times report

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planned offensive.

It quoted a Pentagon official as saying that "one reason for telling reporters . . . about the new mission in the Philippines was that Mr. Bunye had mischaracterized the scope of an operation that had already been agreed upon in private."

But Bunye said yesterday that Balikatan 03-1 would be "a peace and development initiative as much as a training exercise."

He said US troops would operate "under the overall command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines," and that the training activities would be coordinated with the Sulu government "so that the communities involved will be properly informed."

"These training exercises will not displace peaceful civilian communities. Civic action will be conducted to support social services in the area," he added.

Bunye also confirmed that Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes would fly to the United States this weekend to communicate to Rumsfeld the Philippines' position that no US troops would be engaged in offensives in Sulu.

At a press briefing earlier in the day, Reyes repeatedly tried to dodge the matter.

"What they have in Washington are leaks and I'd rather not comment on leaks," he said when asked to confirm or deny the US reports.

He added: "What we know is that there are ongoing discussions on the details of Balikatan 03-1, and until after the discussion of the details, we are not going to [say] anything more . . . aside from the fact that there is approval in principle for Balikatan 03-1 to be staged in Sulu."

Nothing final

Asked why he could not deny the reports if these were not true, Reyes said: "I am categorically saying that anything they say that contravenes the Constitution and the laws will not materialize."

But when asked if there were plans to use US troops for an all-out offensive against the Abu Sayyaf and not for training purposes, he said: "As I said, we are going to discuss the details . . . Nothing is final. The only thing that is final is that anything we will do will be within and in accordance with the Constitution, and we will not be violative of any of our laws."

Reyes also said he would discuss the matter with Rumsfeld.

Military officials had said Balikatan 03-1 would be conducted in Sulu to replicate the Basilan experience last year.

"Basically, the condition will be the same as Balikatan 02-1," Bunye said earlier yesterday over state radio dzRB.

He said that aside from training and advisory roles, US military personnel would also engage in "other services like civic and humanitarian projects."

Later at his regular briefing, Bunye merely presented Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and leaders of the transport sector who had earlier called on the President.

He declined to take questions on Balikatan 03-1, saying he was rushing to a meeting called by Ms Macapagal in the Palace.

New but the same

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople likewise denied that Balikatan 03-1 would involve US troops in offensives against the Abu Sayyaf.

He said new terms of reference were in the works to cover the Sulu exercise. But he said the substance of the new TOR would be same as the one that covered the Basilan exercise.

"This is a continuation of the Balikatan exercise held in Basilan except that it is now in Sulu," he said in a chance interview. "It is still basically a training exercise between the two forces under the Visiting Forces Agreement."

Ople also said the new TOR would be completed "within days."

Bunye earlier said that for Balikatan 03-1, Filipino and US authorities would come up with a "template" TOR, meaning that except for duration and location, the same arrangements as Balikatan 02-1 would be adopted. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

Memories hurting; folks can't go home

From page A1

denied any involvement in the massacre.

Despite the presence of the military, however, residents refused to return to their village yesterday, after authorities arrested two suspects. The evacuees said they would rather stay with their relatives in Poblacion, Kalawit.

Right after the carnage, terrified residents had fled the village, leaving behind their only means of livelihood. Most of the men till corn lands while their wives tend vegetable gardens.

For Eliseo Villaluna and his brother Alejandro, both members of the Civilian Volunteers Organization, returning to Tubod might mean death. They said some neighbors, whom they think sympathetic to the rebels, believe they are military informers.

Kalawit, a sixth-class municipality, is the newest town in the province. The majority of its residents are Christians, while 25% of the population is Muslim.

It is adjacent to the towns of Sibuco, Sirawai, Siocon, and Baliguian, also known as "Triple S-B," the hotbed of the Moro insurgency in the province.

In Malacañang, the Macapagal administration warned the MILF it would be declared a terrorist group "if it persists in attacking civilians."

"This has not been officially taken up, but if they persist in attacking civilians, this option (declaring them as terrorists) just might be considered," Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said.

But despite the massacre and the bombings in Maguindanao and North Cotabato the other day, Bunye said the President still wants to pursue peace with the secessionist rebels.

"The long-term goal of this government is to have peace in Mindanao and we'll walk the extra mile to attain that peace," he said.

Zamboanga del Norte Governor Isagani Amatong ordered the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office to look after the evacuees and the victims recuperating in hospitals.

Aside from free supply of medicine, the wounded victims were also given clothes and food, since most of their houses were razed during the attack.

Joselita Congreso told police investigators she was able to identify two of their attackers but, fearing that the survivors will finish them off while in the hospital, asked for police security.

Col. Pedro Cesar Ramboanga, commander of the Army's 102nd Infantry Brigade, said the two suspects were immediately arrested. He gave no further details of the arrest, but said the ongoing military operation will continue until it was safe for the residents to go home.

Kalawit Mayor Arnold Carloto said it would take a long time before the victims were completely healed.

"Of course the wounds are easily healed, but it is hard to keep their spirits intact when most of the members of their family died," he said. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

Pimentel cries treason: Reyes should explain

From page A1

At a news conference, Vice President Teofisto Guingona said the United States would be "overstepping its bounds if it [engages] in combat in the Philippines, even against terrorists."

"If US forces will be involved in combat operations and possibly kill Filipinos, they will be violating our sovereignty," he said, adding:

"Foreign countries should follow another country's Constitution and abide by treaties no matter how powerful they are."

Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, said the supposed plan to deploy US troops for combat could turn Mindanao into "killing fields where innocent civilians will suffer."

He said the security problem in Mindanao should be addressed by the Philippine military and not by any foreign group.

Villar reminded Reyes that the intent of the Balikatan was for US troops to transfer technology and expertise on military tactics to Filipino soldiers. He said the active pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf by US troops would be against this goal.

Pimentel said Reyes could be misusing the VFA to impose his will over Philippine civilian authorities by allowing the participation of 3,000 US soldiers under Balikatan 03-1.

The senator noted that only 1,300 US troops took part in Balikatan 02-1.

"Next time, it is anybody's guess as to how many US soldiers will be sent to stamp out criminality in any part of the country," he said. "The implications on the nation's independence and our people's dignity are too horrendous to contemplate."

Forward presence

At the House, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos also invoked treason in warning Malacañang against allowing US troops to engage in combat in Sulu.

She said in a statement that "regardless of American interest in the region," Malacañang and the Department of National Defense would be "liable for violation of the Constitution and of the people's trust, as well as our rights of sovereignty."

Marcos said a US defense official had confirmed to her the reported plan for US combat operations in the Philippines. She said the plan was to establish the United States' forward presence in Southeast Asia for operations against Islamic fundamentalist groups.

In a separate statement, the chair of the House committee on foreign affairs said allowing US troops to fight the Abu Sayyaf would "reopen the wounds of the war between the Moros and the American soldiers."

"What we are about to witness could be the same situation that occurred more than a century ago when the forefathers of our Muslim brothers were also branded as rebels and terrorists by the American calvary," Negros Occidental Rep. Jun Lozada said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo cited the constitutional provision barring foreign military bases, troops or facilities in the country except under a treaty duly concurred in by the Senate.

Ocampo said the Balikatan exercise in Sulu needed new terms of reference in order to make clear the participation of US troops there.

He also said that since the House committee on foreign affairs was deliberating on a resolution seeking an inquiry into the extent and nature of the activities of US troops in the country, he could request a "revival" of the hearings to include the current issue.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said Balikatan 03-1 had earned "political and religious color" especially in light of the 9/11 terror attacks in the United States in 2001.

Street protests

In a statement, the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said it was mounting a renewed campaign to force the removal of of US troops in the country through street protests and legal and parliamentary challenges.

"There hasn't been a day since the Balikatan 02-1 exercise that US troops have not been stationed in the Philippines," said Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño. "If government officials do not consider this a permanent presence, then they are either American puppets or just plain stupid and incompetent."

Casiño also said the Philippine government was "fooling no one but itself" in saying that US troops were here only to conduct military training exercises.

"The fact is, they are here to project US military might in the region and protect their economic and geopolitical interests," he said.

At a press conference, former Sen. Francisco Tatad called on the Philippine media to cover the fighting in Mindanao and give the nation an accurate picture, including the actual number of casualties.

"There is such a terrible disparity between the reports we are getting from our own sources in Mindanao and the official statements being quoted by the media, especially with respect to government and civilian casualties," Tatad said, adding:

"Obviously, the information is being managed very effectively. But our people have a right to know what the real score is, especially in light of the presence of American troops in Mindanao, which could very well internationalize the conflict." *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

It's combat, not exercise, for US troops

From page A1

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Deadly risks

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By Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

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Col. Alexander Aleo, who last year hosted US Green Berets on Basilan and now heads an Army brigade on Sulu's capital Jolo, said the unlicensed firearms there were a key concern.

"The majority of the people here have firearms," he said.

Many of the guns are in the hands of an Abu Sayyaf faction, which two years ago raked in millions of dollars in ransom by kidnapping 21 Western tourists and Asian workers from Malaysia's Sipadan dive resort.

The bandit group used the cash to strengthen its arsenal with M-203 rocket-propelled grenades and 57mm and 90mm shoulder-fired recoilless rifles, which can blow up armored tanks, Aleo said.

Tales of how US occupation forces tried to quell Moro resistance bloodily in the early 1900s are becoming fodder for emerging opposition to a US military presence.

"The wounds over the massacre of our forefathers by the American colonialists have not been healed," said Temojin Tulawie, leader of a new group opposing the Americans' arrival. *With an AP report*

Malacañang dismisses New York Times report

From page A1

planned offensive.

It quoted a Pentagon official as saying that "one reason for telling reporters . . . about the new mission in the Philippines was that Mr. Bunye had mischaracterized the scope of an operation that had already been agreed upon in private."

But Bunye said yesterday that Balikatan 03-1 would be "a peace and development initiative as much as a training exercise."

He said US troops would operate "under the overall command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines," and that the training activities would be coordinated with the Sulu government "so that the communities involved will be properly informed."

"These training exercises will not displace peaceful civilian communities. Civic action will be conducted to support social services in the area," he added.

Bunye also confirmed that Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes would fly to the United States this weekend to communicate to Rumsfeld the Philippines' position that no US troops would be engaged in offensives in Sulu.

At a press briefing earlier in the day, Reyes repeatedly tried to dodge the matter.

"What they have in Washington are leaks and I'd rather not comment on leaks," he said when asked to confirm or deny the US reports.

He added: "What we know is that there are ongoing discussions on the details of Balikatan 03-1, and until after the discussion of the details, we are not going to [say] anything more . . . aside from the fact that there is approval in principle for Balikatan 03-1 to be staged in Sulu."

Nothing final

Asked why he could not deny the reports if these were not true, Reyes said: "I am categorically saying that anything they say that contravenes the Constitution and the laws will not materialize."

But when asked if there were plans to use US troops for an all-out offensive against the Abu Sayyaf and not for training purposes, he said: "As I said, we are going to discuss the details . . . Nothing is final. The only thing that is final is that anything we will do will be within and in accordance with the Constitution, and we will not be violative of any of our laws."

Reyes also said he would discuss the matter with Rumsfeld.

Military officials had said Balikatan 03-1 would be conducted in Sulu to replicate the Basilan experience last year.

"Basically, the condition will be the same as Balikatan 02-1," Bunye said earlier yesterday over state radio dzRB.

He said that aside from training and advisory roles, US military personnel would also engage in "other services like civic and humanitarian projects."

Later at his regular briefing, Bunye merely presented Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and leaders of the transport sector who had earlier called on the President.

He declined to take questions on Balikatan 03-1, saying he was rushing to a meeting called by Ms Macapagal in the Palace.

New but the same

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople likewise denied that Balikatan 03-1 would involve US troops in offensives against the Abu Sayyaf.

He said new terms of reference were in the works to cover the Sulu exercise. But he said the substance of the new TOR would be same as the one that covered the Basilan exercise.

"This is a continuation of the Balikatan exercise held in Basilan except that it is now in Sulu," he said in a chance interview. "It is still basically a training exercise between the two forces under the Visiting Forces Agreement."

Ople also said the new TOR would be completed "within days."

Bunye earlier said that for Balikatan 03-1, Filipino and US authorities would come up with a "template" TOR, meaning that except for duration and location, the same arrangements as Balikatan 02-1 would be adopted. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

Pimentel cries treason: Reyes should explain

From page A1

At a news conference, Vice President Teofisto Guingona said the United States would be "overstepping its bounds if it [engages] in combat in the Philippines, even against terrorists."

"If US forces will be involved in combat operations and possibly kill Filipinos, they will be violating our sovereignty," he said, adding:

"Foreign countries should follow another country's Constitution and abide by treaties no matter how powerful they are."

Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, said the supposed plan to deploy US troops for combat could turn Mindanao into "killing fields where innocent civilians will suffer."

He said the security problem in Mindanao should be addressed by the Philippine military and not by any foreign group.

Villar reminded Reyes that the intent of the Balikatan was for US troops to transfer technology and expertise on military tactics to Filipino soldiers. He said the active pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf by US troops would be against this goal.

Pimentel said Reyes could be misusing the VFA to impose his will over Philippine civilian authorities by allowing the participation of 3,000 US soldiers under Balikatan 03-1.

The senator noted that only 1,300 US troops took part in Balikatan 02-1.

"Next time, it is anybody's guess as to how many US soldiers will be sent to stamp out criminality in any part of the country," he said. "The implications on the nation's independence and our people's dignity are too horrendous to contemplate."

Forward presence

At the House, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos also invoked treason in warning Malacañang against allowing US troops to engage in combat in Sulu.

She said in a statement that "regardless of American interest in the region," Malacañang and the Department of National Defense would be "liable for violation of the Constitution and of the people's trust, as well as our rights of sovereignty."

Marcos said a US defense official had confirmed to her the reported plan for US combat operations in the Philippines. She said the plan was to establish the United States' forward presence in Southeast Asia for operations against Islamic fundamentalist groups.

In a separate statement, the chair of the House committee on foreign affairs said allowing US troops to fight the Abu Sayyaf would "reopen the wounds of the war between the Moros and the American soldiers."

"What we are about to witness could be the same situation that occurred more than a century ago when the forefathers of our Muslim brothers were also branded as rebels and terrorists by the American calvary," Negros Occidental Rep. Jun Lozada said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo cited the constitutional provision barring foreign military bases, troops or facilities in the country except under a treaty duly concurred in by the Senate.

Ocampo said the Balikatan exercise in Sulu needed new terms of reference in order to make clear the participation of US troops there.

He also said that since the House committee on foreign affairs was deliberating on a resolution seeking an inquiry into the extent and nature of the activities of US troops in the country, he could request a "revival" of the hearings to include the current issue.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said Balikatan 03-1 had earned "political and religious color" especially in light of the 9/11 terror attacks in the United States in 2001.

Street protests

In a statement, the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said it was mounting a renewed campaign to force the removal of of US troops in the country through street protests and legal and parliamentary challenges.

"There hasn't been a day since the Balikatan 02-1 exercise that US troops have not been stationed in the Philippines," said Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño. "If government officials do not consider this a permanent presence, then they are either American puppets or just plain stupid and incompetent."

Casiño also said the Philippine government was "fooling no one but itself" in saying that US troops were here only to conduct military training exercises.

"The fact is, they are here to project US military might in the region and protect their economic and geopolitical interests," he said.

At a press conference, former Sen. Francisco Tatad called on the Philippine media to cover the fighting in Mindanao and give the nation an accurate picture, including the actual number of casualties.

"There is such a terrible disparity between the reports we are getting from our own sources in Mindanao and the official statements being quoted by the media, especially with respect to government and civilian casualties," Tatad said, adding:

"Obviously, the information is being managed very effectively. But our people have a right to know what the real score is, especially in light of the presence of American troops in Mindanao, which could very well internationalize the conflict." *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

Texan general to call the shots in Balikatan 03-1

From page A1

his two stars last September.

Weber's assignment as commander of the American forces that will go after the Abu Sayyaf is, according to the New York Times, "a sign of the importance the Pentagon was placing on the mission."

Weber, 52, is a Marine to the core.

"We want to be challenged and we want to work. But . . . when we deploy, we work hard and lay it on the line," Weber had said of the 3rd Marine Division in an interview posted on the website of the US Marines in Japan.

That interview revealed how proud Weber was of his division.

"They're on the pointy edge of the spear and no matter what spectrum of warfare, conflict or humanitarian assistance, they're ready to go," Weber had said. "Deploying is our job. It's our business. That's what our commandant and the nation expect.

For his unit, Weber said, there was one primordial consideration: "Get the job done."

Military career

Weber graduated from the Texas A&M University and was commissioned as second lieutenant in 1972. His first unit was the 3rd Marine Division, serving as forward observer.

According to his official biography, he returned to the US from "overseas" in 1974, but there were no details from which country he had his foreign tour of duty.

Weber reported for duty as executive officer of the Headquarters Battery of the 1st Field Artillery Group at Twentynine Palms, California. He was posted in 1975 in Hawaii with the 12th Marines; he returned to the US in 1979.

He was back with the Marines in Okinawa in 1982. He returned to the US to serve on the staff of the US Naval Academy from 1983 to 1985.

Weber earned his master's in public policy and policy development from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin in 1986.

Weber, by then a lieutenant colonel, left the Marine Corps Headquarters in December 1989 to report to Quarry Heights, Panama as special assistant to the commander of the US Southern Command.

In 1992, he became commander of the 3rd Battalion, and a year later was promoted to full colonel. In June 1993, he was appointed commanding officer of the Marine Corps Artillery Detachment.

In 1996, he got another command, the 11th Marines. In February 1998, he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. In June that year he reported for duty as the deputy for operations of the US-European Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

Weber returned to the US in July 2000 to assume his duties as commanding general of the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command at Twentynine Palms, California.

Memories hurting; folks can't go home

From page A1

denied any involvement in the massacre.

Despite the presence of the military, however, residents refused to return to their village yesterday, after authorities arrested two suspects. The evacuees said they would rather stay with their relatives in Poblacion, Kalawit.

Right after the carnage, terrified residents had fled the village, leaving behind their only means of livelihood. Most of the men till corn lands while their wives tend vegetable gardens.

For Eliseo Villaluna and his brother Alejandro, both members of the Civilian Volunteers Organization, returning to Tubod might mean death. They said some neighbors, whom they think sympathetic to the rebels, believe they are military informers.

Kalawit, a sixth-class municipality, is the newest town in the province. The majority of its residents are Christians, while 25% of the population is Muslim.

It is adjacent to the towns of Sibuco, Sirawai, Siocon, and Baliguian, also known as "Triple S-B," the hotbed of the Moro insurgency in the province.

In Malacañang, the Macapagal administration warned the MILF it would be declared a terrorist group "if it persists in attacking civilians."

"This has not been officially taken up, but if they persist in attacking civilians, this option (declaring them as terrorists) just might be considered," Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said.

But despite the massacre and the bombings in. Maguindanao and North Cotabato the other day, Bunye said the President still wants to pursue peace with the secessionist rebels.

"The long-term goal of this government is to have peace in Mindanao and we'll walk the extra mile to attain that peace," he said.

Zamboanga del Norte Governor Isagani Amatong ordered the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office to look after the evacuees and the victims recuperating in hospitals.

Aside from free supply of medicine, the wounded victims were also given clothes and food, since most of their houses were razed during the attack.

Joselita Congreso told police investigators she was able to identify two of their attackers but, fearing that the survivors will finish them off while in the hospital, asked for police security.

Col. Pedro Cesar Ramboanga, commander of the Army's 102nd Infantry Brigade, said the two suspects were immediately arrested. He gave no further details of the arrest, but said the ongoing military operation will continue until it was safe for the residents to go home.

Kalawit Mayor Arnold Carloto said it would take a long time before the victims were completely healed.

"Of course the wounds are easily healed, but it is hard to keep their spirits intact when most of the members of their family died," he said. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

3rd bombing in 2 days injures 3 in Koronadal

From page A1

side the Koronadal Com- mercial Center in South Cotabato went off at about 5:10 p.m. yesterday.

Provincial governor Daisy Avance Fuentes said an anonymous telephone caller warned police about 30 minutes before the explosion, but the authorities did not find the bomb in time.

"It's still related to the Army-MILF conflict in central Mindanao," Fuentes said.

The explosive, a mortar shell rigged with a timing device, was attached to the exhaust pipe of a car parked outside the building, but the owner who had been shopping inside denied he was behind the bombing, Koronadal police chief Danilo Posadas said.

At about 7 p.m., police spotted an 81-mm mortar shell under another parked vehicle, about 50 meters from the blast site.

A car bomb had damaged the Cotabato City airport and nearby buildings in Maguindanao on Thursday, killing one person and injuring eight others. Another person, whom military officials later identified as the bomber, was killed and 10 civilians injured on the same day when a bomb was set off at the public market in Kabacan town in North Cotabato.

Bombers also targeted more National Power Corp. towers. Yesterday, they downed one and damaged two others, bringing the total of sabotaged Napocor towers since last week to eight, Maj. Julieto Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said. The Armed Forces blamed all of the attacks on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Abu Sayyaf's claim

But in a statement, the Abu Sayyaf bandit group claimed responsibility for the Cotabato airport bombing.

"We did it!" Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Soliman said.

In his second statement to the media within the week, Soliman, who has a $5-million bounty on his head, said: "Since our voices have been continuously ignored, then let them listen to the fury of an oppressed people. Our operations at our mainland like the one at Awang airport is only one of our responses to the "atrocities" being committed to our people."

Soliman claimed that his group was now operating not only in the southern Mindanao but also in Central Mindanao.

Soliman's statement introduced him as the new spokesperson of the Abu Sayyaf. Military intelligence reports also state that Soliman is the group's operations officer.

The group's previous spokesperson, Aldam Tilao alias Abu Sabaya, was believed killed in an encounter with the military sometime July last year in Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte.

But the MILF suggested that a third party was fueling the military-MILF war.

"We deny any hand in the airport car bomb," said MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu.

Diagram found

The injured in the Koronadal incident included Virginia Magallanes and Noel Galcep, both of Koronadal. Bomb experts recovered a wallet damaged by the explosion containing a diagram for making an improvised explosive device, Fuentes said. The wallet was traced to the third victim, 20-year-old Cedric Sabal of Cotabato City, who was in critical condition.

The police said they believe the suspect could not get inside the mall because of tighter security imposed since last week, and decided to place the improvised bomb under a parked car.

The parking area where the incident occurred is frequented by tricycle drivers waiting for passengers.

Fuentes asked residents not to panic. She said the military and the police were on top of the situation. If not for the tight security at the mall, she noted, the suspect could have entered the commercial center and done more damage.

Text messages had circulated in Koronadal and Gen. Santos City since yesterday morning, saying the MILF will conduct more bombings.

Koronadal, the provincial capital with a population of 160,000, is a bustling agricultural city. It has generally escaped terror attacks.

"Maybe tomorrow we will solve this because we have a small lead and that's enough for us," Fuentes said.

Target: Reyes?

Military officials yesterday claimed that Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes may have been the target of the car bomb which exploded outside the Cotabato City airport.

Reyes was supposed to have flown out of the airport in Awang at around 2 p.m. on Thursday—about half an hour before the blast, which killed one person (a soldier and not a waitress, as earlier reported).

According to Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, Department of National Defense public information chief, Reyes was to have attended the launching of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao's convergence program in Barira, Maguindanao, upon the invitation of local officials last Jan. 24.

Last week's government campaign against the MILF-held Buliok complex, however, caused the postponement of Reyes' trip.

This raised the possibility that the bomb was meant for Reyes.

"That is one of the angles being looked at by the investigators because of the timing and the manner by which it was executed," Servando told defense reporters.

Asked for comment, Reyes said he didn't know if he was actually the target or not.

The explosion killed Sgt. Nelson Corpuz of the Army's Scout Rangers Regiment. Marissa Letan, owner of the Pampangueña Restaurant, earlier said her worker Haydee Bello was killed.

But yesterday, Letan said Bello, 15, was traced to a hospital, where she was being treated for injuries.

Yesterday, suspected MILF rebels planted four bombs on a Napocor tower in Kitutaan, Carmen, North Cotabato.

Only one of the bombs exploded, but the blast caused the tower to tilt, rendering it useless.

This was preceded by the bombing of another tower in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte and the sabotage of a third in Bubong, Lanao del Sur on Thursday. *With reports from Martin Marfil in Manila; Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP, AFP; Arlyn dela Cruz, contributor*

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MILF trying to get even, says PNP

By TJ Burgonio

IT WAS an eye for an eye.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front carried out Thursday's two bombings in Central Mindanao in retaliation for last week's takeover of the MILF-held Buliok complex, police officials said yesterday.

"The MILF carried out the attacks to get back at the military. Remember the military conducted an operation in their camp in North Cotabato? That's our monitoring," Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, director for intelligence, said in a phone interview.

Another official, who asked not to be named, said the attacks were part of the order MILF chief Salamat Hashim issued to his men at the height of last week's clashes in Pikit, North Cotabato, to launch "all-out" attacks. The attacks included placing improvised explosive devices in populated areas in Mindanao, the source said.

"Since the order was open, and that the MILF is claiming that they have 'stragglers' who are out of control, we should expect similar attacks in Mindanao," he added.

At a forum in Quezon City, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos also suggested the bombings could have been retaliatory attacks. Marcos said she was "completely shocked" that the military operations started on the last day of the hajj, considered a "sacred day in the Muslim calendar."

That's why she said "the sense of outrage and of violation" was "resonant in the Muslim population."

MILF officials have flatly denied having a hand in the bombings.

Delfin disputed reports that the first explosion was a suicide bombing, saying that the suspect, identified as Imaran Makalogi, 17, prematurely detonated the bomb he was carrying.

Delfin also clarified reports that the second explosion was triggered by a car bomb. He said that the explosive could not technically be considered a car bomb, because it was placed underneath the car, but not attached to it. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

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'Dirty Dozen' swamped . . .

From page A1

deluge are the 12 senators who continue to oppose key amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Law (Amla) required to meet the standards of the Pari-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

A leader of one "text and e-mail" group said in a telephone interview that the campaign, which began on Feb.14, seems to be working.

"They have either changed their phone numbers or SIM cards , while others appear to have softened up on their stand on the matter," said Noel Josue, executive director of the Kaibigan ng OFWs (Kaibigan).

According to Josue, each senator and their staff have been receiving up to 200 text messages daily from members of Kaibigan and other OFW groups here and abroad.

The "Dirty Dozen" refers to Senators Tito Sotto, Loren Legarda, Panfilo Lacson, Loi Estrada, John Osmeña, Aquilino Pimentel, Tessie Aquino Oreta, Rodolfo Biazon, Gringo Honasan, Edgardo Angara, Manuel Villar and Joker Arroyo.

Warnings

The groups' message includes warnings that the OFW groups will remember the names of the senators and that OFWs and their families will not vote for them in the elections.

Josue said they have launched the campaign amid "well-founded fears" that sanctions from the FATF will hit the overseas Filipino workers the hardest.

Following FATF's rejection of the recent Amla amendments, he said even banks from Canada have started to reject remittances send through the automated teller machines (ATMs).

"Canadian banks with ties to the local RCBC bank have started rejecting ATM remittances," he said, a move which also happened recently in Japan.

According to him, though these moves are not yet part of the FATF sanctions, they are already indicative of what would happen if Congress fails to meet the new deadline imposed by the FATF on March 15.

Amend Amla Movement

The other groups in the campaign include the regional offices of the CBCP's Commission for Pastoral Care for Migrants and Itinerant People and the Center for Overseas Workers.

Others groups representing the overseas Filipino workers make up the Amend Amla Movement (AAM).

They include the moderate labor group, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, Merchant Marine Overseas Association, United Filipino Seafarers, Filipino Migrant Workers and the Organization of Placement Agencies of the Philippines.

'Have pity on us'

In a press conference in Quezon City yesterday, AAM leaders warned that the severe sanctions to be imposed by the FATF will primarily affect 7 million OFWs and their 10 million dependents.

For one, they said, the OFW's dollar remittances will be chronically delayed once money transfers begin to be subjected to "increased scrutiny regardless of the amount."

Such delays would place many families of OFWs in a financial fix, default on their bill payments, run short of cash for everyday expenses, and ultimately resorting to usurious loans.

The movement also warned of the damage to the Philippine economy due to the restricted entry of foreign-earned cash in the banking system, delayed payments for exports, and low investor confidence owing to the "hassles" of bringing money into the country.

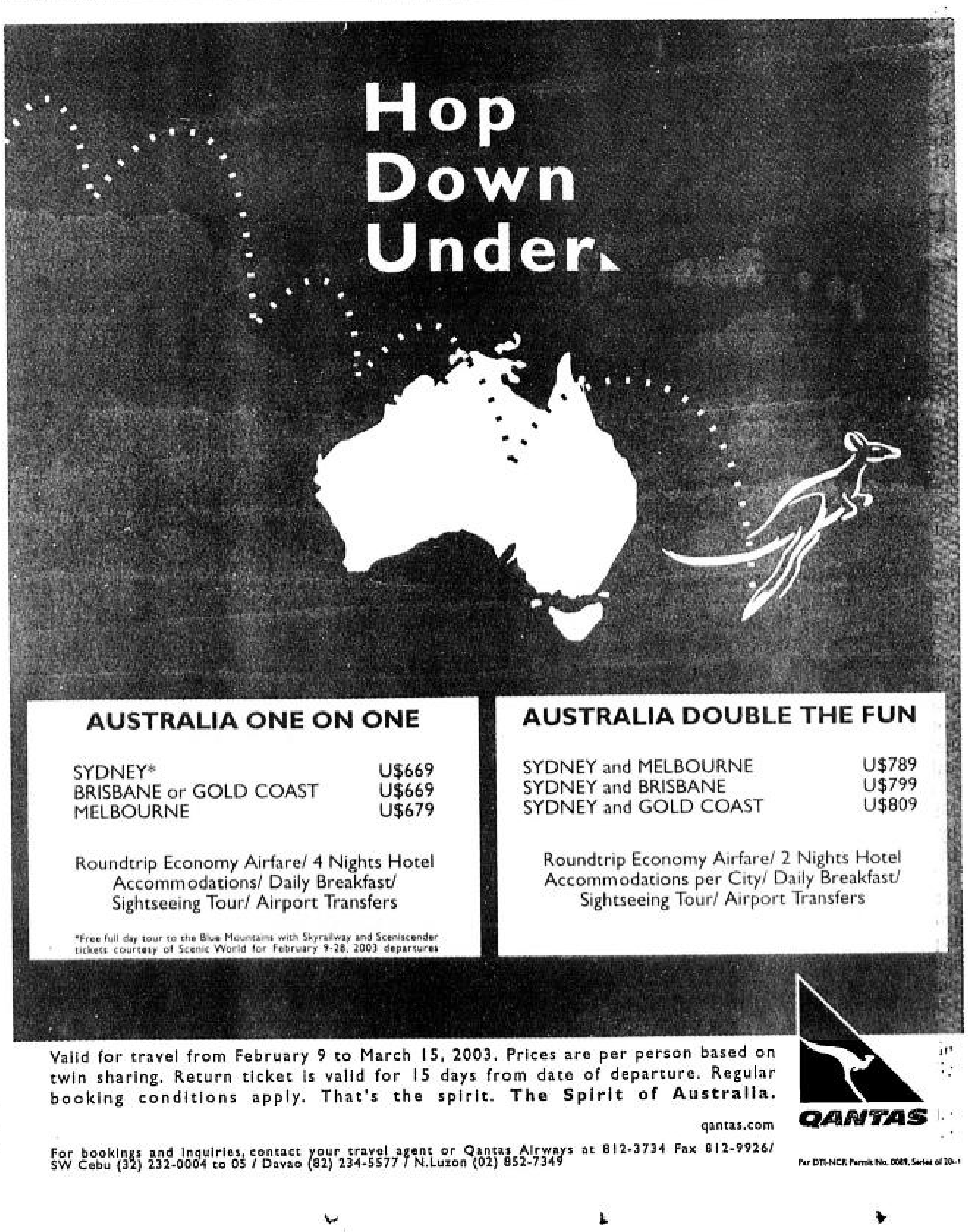
The peso-dollar exchange, it said, can surge to P60 to $1 due in large part to the "devastating effects" of these sanctions.

The movement noted that the FATF had rejected the latest version of the Amla due to the 12 senators' stiff opposition to an amendment allowing authorities to look into suspicious bank accounts without a court order.

As a result, the FATF had recommended additional counter-measures against the Philippines beginning March 15 if government fails to plug so-called "loopholes" in the law.

Engineer Nelson Ramirez of the United Filipino Seafarers said the provision requiring court orders for opening suspicious accounts will only affect a "few" wealthy depositors whose bank accounts may contain the fruits of their criminal activities. But the rest of the 21 million Filipino bank depositors stand to suffer the brunt of FATF sanctions," he said.

"To the 12 senators, please have pity on us. We seafarers can influence our wives and families who to vote for in 2004," said Roger Cordero of the Merchant Marine Overseas Association.



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US says its forces ready to attack Iraq any time

A THOUSAND Marines arrive via a Landing Craft Utility vehicle in a Kuwaiti port. About 150,000 US troops are already in the Gulf region, 70,000 of them in Kuwait.

From page A1

where, if the president makes that decision (to attack), the Department of Defense is prepared and has the capabilities and the strategy to do that."

Asked if the US and British forces were ready to go to war now, Rumsfeld replied: "Yes."

Defense officials say the United States and Britain have gathered more than 150,000 troops in the region along with dozens of warships and hundreds of aircraft. But Rumsfeld refused to discuss exact troop totals, saying "I don't do numbers."

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, whose country is one of five veto-wielding members of the UN Security Council, said UN arms inspectors in Iraq were coming under pressure to produce reports which would back the case for war and urged them to remain objective in carrying out their task.

Turkish Prime Minister Abdullah Gul, whose help the United States is seeking in obtaining a springboard for any military thrust into neighboring northern Iraq, said he would make a statement on Friday about the issue. *(See story on page 9)*.

An administration official traveling with President George W. Bush on a visit to Georgia said Washington would present a new resolution on Iraq—which the UN has ordered to scrap any weapons of mass destruction in its arsenal—to the Security Council next week.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said the wording of the resolution was still under review but it would make clear Iraq had not fulfilled Resolution 1441 passed in November.

The draft resolution is expected to be simple and say Iraq is in "further material breach" of the Nov. 8 resolution. Washington and London maintain that the words "material breach" can be used as justification for war.

The measure, which would be used as a legal basis for attacking Iraq, is likely to run into strong opposition from Security Council members France, Russia and China who demand UN arms inspectors be given more time to search for suspected weapons of mass destruction.

"It will be a resolution that summarizes the situation . . . as it exists. Shows that Iraq is not in compliance. I think the resolution will point out that lack of cooperation," Powell told BBC Television's Newsnight program.

Powell said he did not expect the resolution to contain a deadline for compliance.

'Time is running out'

"But clearly time is running out. We cannot just allow this matter to drive along," he said, adding that the existing UN Resolution 1441 contained adequate authorization for the use of force.

"This next resolution need not say military action to provide the authority for the use of force," Powell said.

The draft US resolution had been expected to be circulated to the 15 UN Security Council members this week but diplomats said the Bush administration first wanted to brief Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, who visits this weekend.

Spain, which has a seat on the council, is a strong supporter of the US position on Iraq.

Bush, stumping in support of his economic policies, said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was "throwing away" his last chance to disarm voluntarily under UN auspices.

BRITISH Marines wear gas masks during a drill at Camp Rhino in the Kuwaiti desert. Britain has committed a 42,000 man combat force "on a daily basis."

"If military force becomes necessary to disarm Iraq, this nation, joined by others, will act decisively in a just cause, and we will prevail," Bush said. "For the oppressed people of Iraq ... the day of freedom is drawing near."

'Strong pressure'

In comments in Moscow clearly aimed at Washington, Ivanov told reporters UN arms inspectors were "being subjected to very strong pressure in order to provoke their departure from Iraq, as occurred in 1998, or to present to the Security Council assessments which could be used as a pretext for the use of force against Iraq." The inspectors were withdrawn from Iraq in 1998 shortly before US and British aircraft attacked Iraq.

Ivanov did not rule out vetoing a new UN resolution which endorsed the use of force against Iraq, but said Moscow had no objections to examining a new resolution if it was aimed at helping the inspection process.

Amid the diplomatic maneuvering, Spain's Aznar stopped over in Mexico to try to convince President Vicente Fox to back his northern neighbor. Aznar then travels to Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas, to plan strategy.

The chief UN weapons inspectors reported to the Security Council on Feb. 14 that Iraqi officials had improved their cooperation with the inspectors, but that shortcomings remained.

But the White House said Iraq had not followed through on promises of cooperation and Bush said Saddam was "actively deceiving" the inspectors and "actively hiding" banned arms.

Iraq denies it has any such weapons.

Its foreign minister, Naji Sabri addressed a point-by-point rebuttal to detailed US allegations of Iraqi deceit, presented by Powell Feb. 5, to the head of the United Nations, Iraqi UN Ambassador Mohammed Aldouri said.

Stepping up the pressure, a U-2 spy plane made its second reconnaissance flight over Iraqi territory on Thursday as part of the hunt for weapons of mass destruction, Baghdad said.

UN experts inspected five Iraqi missile sites near Baghdad after the chief arms inspector was said to have decided to ask Iraq to destroy its outlawed al-Samoud 2 missiles. *Reuters*

Sin: Stop war in Mindanao . . .

From page A1

The Cardinal joined the world in condemning terrorism and in calling for an end to the production of weapons of mass destruction, but he stressed that these could still be attained through "sincere dialog and diplomacy."

Archbishop Antonio Franco, the Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines who officiated the Mass, reiterated Pope John Paul II's message that the "pillars of true peace are justice and forgiveness."

"Let us not fail to hope in God's land. Let us not be discouraged by acts of violence," Franco said. "Let us pray for the conversion of all those who trust in weapons as a means to justify, to react or to prevent (war). Let us not give up our prayers."

"May peace come to Iraq, to the Middle East, to Mindanao and everywhere," he said.

Poverty, injustice

In the Philippines, Sin said, the the meaningless loss of human life and property, especially in Mindanao, can be averted if "valid human development programs" are instituted.

"Poverty and injustice are the main opponents of peace," he said. "Failure to address the needs of the people is the grave threat to peace.

"If we want peace in the country, we must work for genuine reforms and put an end to the misconduct of old politics."

Sin had initiated the holding of the Mass-rally, which was attended by bishops, priests and lay organizations, to pray for world peace. Organizers lighted candles and released hundreds of balloons into the sky.

The event was held a day before the Church celebrates the feast of the Chair of St. Peter.

Sin said the peace rally signified the solidarity of the local Church with the Pope, who called on the faithful to exert all possible effort to attain peace.

THE YOUTHSPEAK is clear as represented by students from St. Scholastica's College.

ERIK ARAZAS

ANG LAKAS
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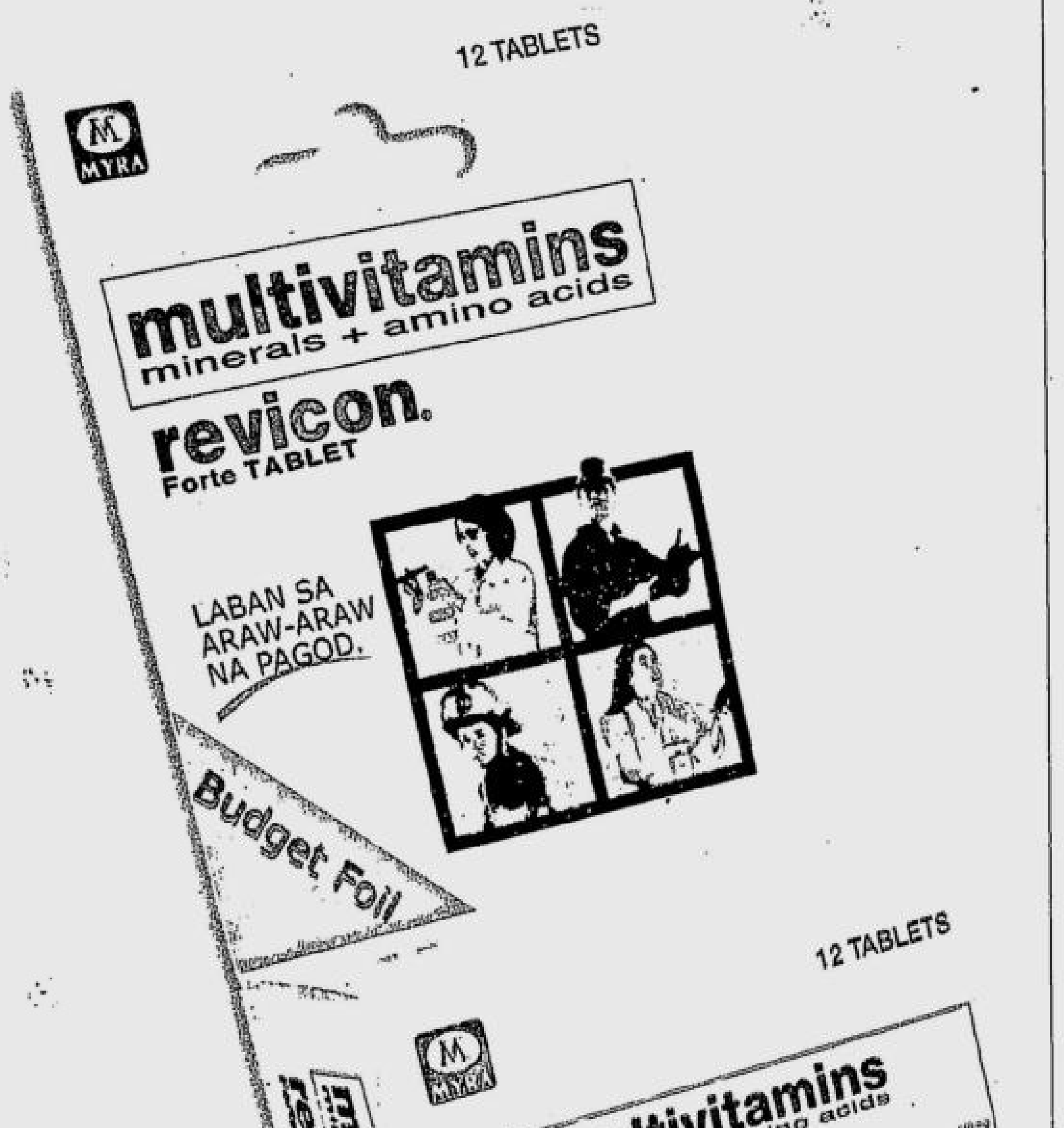
NASA PABAON
NI MISIS.



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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Mindanao breeders induction

THE NORTHERN Mindanao Gamefowl Breeders Association (NMGBA), a newly organized association in Cagayan de Oro City, will hold the induction party starting at 11 a.m. today at the Grand Caprice Hotel. Thunderbird Power Feeds is the main sponsor of the whole program headed by marketing director Edwin C. Mapanao with product manager Dante I. Nacar and regional promotions coordinator Dr. Rodner Tuquib .

CRYSTAL SPRINGS LEADS

Villanueva stars in PAL Seniors golf

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

DAVAO CITY-Josefino Villanueva starred yesterday as Crystal Springs took the lead in the Sportswriters Division at the start of the 17th PAL Seniors Interclub here.

Villanueva scored 46 points on his 80 at the par-72, 6,401-yard Lanang and powered his teammates from San Francisco, California, with a 203 total.

That was five points up on host Lanang, which fired 198 in the tournament that has drawn a record field of entries for golfers 55 years old and above.

In the Friendship Division, Mabuhay was the early leader with 209 at the par 72, 7,000-yard Palos Verdes, with Philippine Navy coming in second with 94 and Pittsburg third with 187.

Travellers Golf and Davao City Golf were tied at 179s in the three-day event that allows each team to field in eight players, with the best five scores counting.

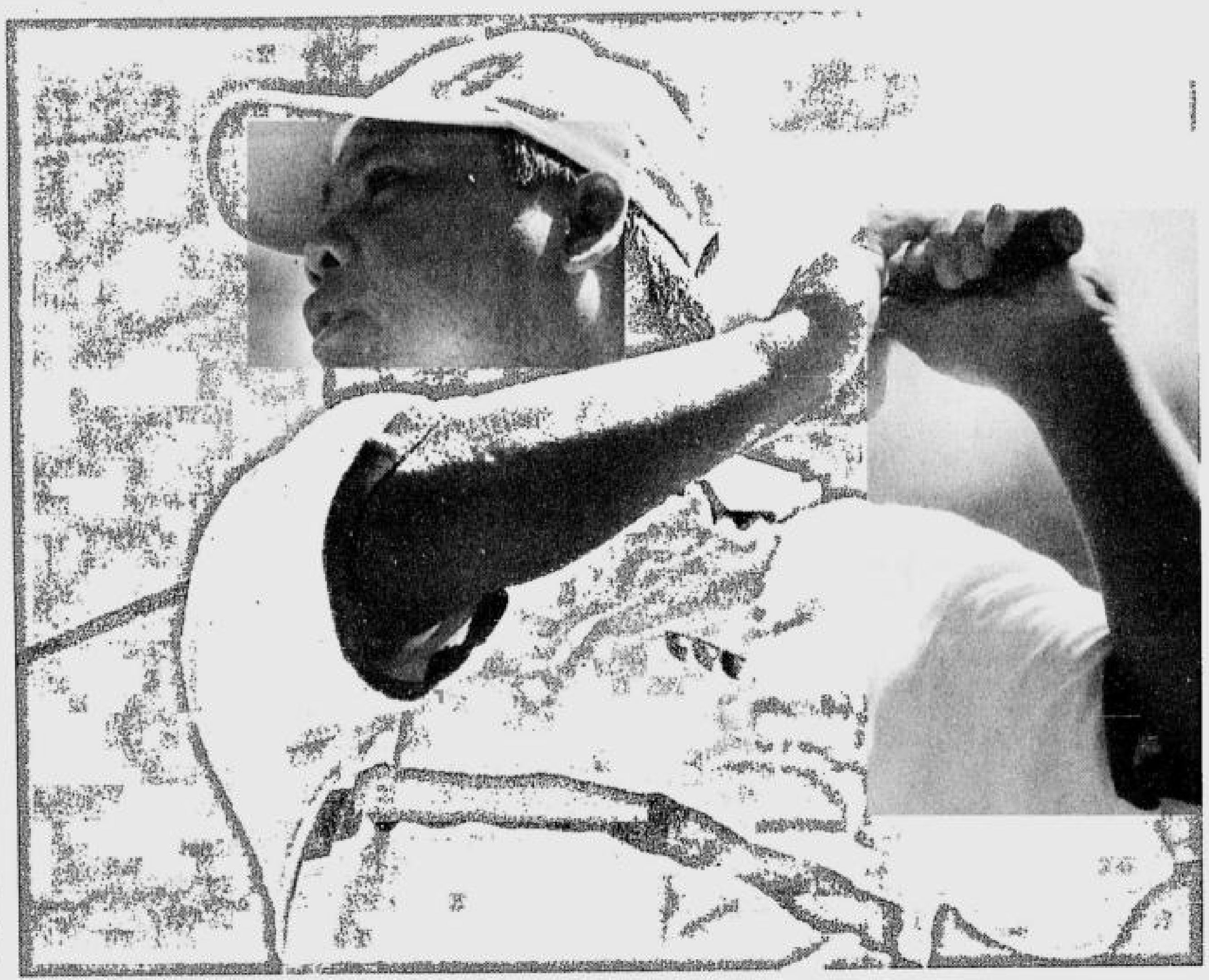
Aguinaldo had 190, Club Filipino 188 and Club Intramuros 187. All three were still in a position to contest the top plum in the next two days of the tournament ending on Sunday.

The other strong finishers in the Friendship Division were Sienna with 178 (played at Lanang), Fil Hawaii 178 (Palos Verdes), Maharlika 177, Washington 175, Evangelista 170 and Iloilo 168.

Villanueva got strong support from Bernardo de Guzman with 43, Constante Foronda 42, Iksoo Chai 40 and Nicomedes Cava 32 for Crystal Springs' scoring binge.

The scores of their teammates Inocencio Rendon (26), Fred Viray (25) and Robert Howard (24) did not count.

Villanueva's 46 also gave him a share of the lead for individual honors with local hot shot Oscar Lopez of Lanang.



SINFUEGO: First three-leg champion.

PDI PHOTO

Also scoring for Lanang were Nestor Plana Jr. and Conrado Ibanez with 40s, James Pendelbury 39 and Manuel Grandeza 33. Not counting were Robert Duvois and Geronimo (31s) and Manuel Tan (24).

The record field of 68 teams are seeing action in the tournament that PAL initiated in 1986 to give the country's senior golfers a chance to keep body and soul intact despite the advancing years.

The main event of the PAL Interclub-the regular men's tournament will start on Feb. 25 at both Apo and Palos Verdes, with also a record field of 77 teams in attendance.

Among the major backers of this unofficial national team golf championship that began right after World War II ended are Airbus, ABS-CBN International, Air Philippines, Fortune Tobacco, 105.1 Crossover, MTV Philippines, Joey 92.3, PLDT, Premiere Wine Spirits, RMN, Royal Caribbean, UMBN/Mindanao times and Pilipinas Shell. Apo View Hotel, TaylorMade adidas and 96.3 Wrock are the corporate sponsors, with Asia Brewery and Sporteum Philippines as supporters. The Marco Polo is the tournament's official hotel.

Sinfuego nips Casas in 12th leg

By Jong Arcano

SO what else is new?

Richard Sinfuego won and Cassius Casas lost again after another down-the-wire duel that couldn't have gone any closer in the 12th leg of the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit at the Manila Southwoods Legends course.

Sinfuego crowned himself the season's first three-leg champion after Casas wilted in the back nine after a fiery start and wound up the runner-up for the fifth time in the last six weeks.

Already trailing by two after 10 holes, Sinfuego made a tying birdie from eight feet on the 15th then watched Casas stumble with a three-putt bogey on the 16th to capture the P100,000 top prize by one stroke.

With a final-round effort of one-under par 71, Sinfuego completed 72 holes at six-under 282 against the 283 of Casas who made two birdies and eagled No. 2 for a 32 in the front nine but had a 38 coming out for a 70.

"I can only keep trying, I think I have to accept whatever comes my way," said Casas, who may have set a record for the most number of runner-up finishes in one season.

What hurt his bid was a missed 30-foot birdie try on the 16th, the same hole where he took a triple bogey the previous day, which slid 10 feet past the cup. He failed to sink the par saver.

Casas went for broke on the final hole but what looked like a perfectly struck approach left him with a 30-footer to forge a playoff. It became more difficult after Sinfuego, putting ahead of him from about 36 feet, nearly holed his birdie putt for a gimme par.

Sinfuego thus added the Southwoods leg to his earlier victories in Canlubang and last week at the Orchard, where he rallied from six shots down to nip Casas by one.

The Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines-organized pro tour funded by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's foundation and San Miguel makes way for the Razon Memorial this week at the Country Club.

The FG Tour will take a long break before resuming the Northern Luzon grind that will bring it to Mimosa, Luisita and then to the Camp John Hay in Baguio for the final leg.

The final scores:

282 - R. Sinfuego 69-69-73-71; 283 - C. Casas 68-73-72-70; 284 - D. Cruz 71-66-78-69, R. Pagunsan 74-70-70-70; 286- R. Sasutil 74-72-73; 288 - , B. Magada 72-72-75-69, E. Salvador 67-72-75-74; 289 -, W. Horiguchi 70-73-76-70 ; 290 - M. Pucay 73-73-72-72, E. Bagtas 75-73-73-69; 291 - C. LaO 74-72-73-72.

Beam threatens to back out of PBA sponsorship

By June Navarro

FED up with the intricacies of having its corporate logo transfixed on the floor of the Araneta Coliseum, a local brand toothpaste has threatened to back out from its sponsorship package with the fabled Cubao arena.

Luke Pasiliao, chief operating officer of Uniprom Inc., the entertainment arm of the Araneta Group of Companies, said Beam toothpaste representatives have sent feelers of pulling its resources out of the coliseum.

"Beam has expressed its intentions of backing out from its commitment but there was no written confirmation yet," said Pasiliao.

Beam toothpaste has signed a three-year deal with Uniprom Inc. worth almost P15 million for the right to put its logos on the Araneta floor.

Early this week, the PBA threatened to abandon the venue on its opening tomorrow but was easily settled after Beam officials promised to pay the league 30 percent of its sponsorship deal with Uniprom Inc.

What probably fetched the ire of Beam officials was NBN's demand for a separate compensation since the decals will be shown on television.

Should Beam fail to renumerate its television exposure, NBN officials said they would erase the decals within the range of the cameras using a technólogy called "Digi-warp."

Tam's team nears title

TALK N TEXT-National Pool A met strong resistance before besting Sta. Lucia-CUSA, 78-75, Thursday and moving within a win of clinching the Bert Lina Six-Feet and Above Junior Basketball Championship at the Lyceum Gym. The Nationals of coach Johnny Tam can cut short the best-of-three title series with a repeat in yesterday's Game 2 at the same venue. Unlike in their previous seven straight wins, however, the Nationals found the CUSA selection tough to crack, needing split charities from Dennis Marinas and Brian Ilad in the last 33.5 seconds to foil the Realtors. Hotshot Jonathan Fernandez led the Nationals with 18 points while Edwin Asoro added 17.

The Realtors, surprise finalist in the tournament confined to players who are 18 years old and below, drew 23 points from Robert Tolentino. Shell-UCAA also leaned on charities from Leemore Boliver and Martin Antonio to snare third place at the expense of Red Bull-National Pool B, 90-89. *Roy Luarca*

NISSAN OPEN

Funk ahead; Woods 7 down

WOODS

PACIFIC PALISADES, California—Fred Funk needed only 23 putts en route to a six-under-par 65 that gave him the first-round lead at the $4.5 million Nissan Open on Thursday, seven shots ahead of Tiger Woods.

Funk had a three-stroke lead over Australian Steve Elkington, who won the 1995 PGA Championship at this venue, Nick Price of South Africa, Cameron Beckman and Jeff Sluman.

Woods, who has never won this event, struggled with his putter, totalling 34 putts. He hit just seven fairways but kept in touch by hitting 15 greens in regulation.

First-round play was suspended at 1745 local with 15 players left on the course.

"The theme of the whole day was my putting," Funk said. "I was really hot, and I hit some really good irons. I didn't drive it particularly well but over the first 11 holes, that's as good as I can putt." Funk, 46, hit just nine of 14 fairways and 12 of 18 greens in regulation.

Funk began on the back nine at Riviera Country Club and holed three birdie putts of 20 feet or longer and two-putted from 120 feet on the 487-yard, par-four 15th to save par.

"If these greens don't get any water on them and soften them up, I think they are going to get firmer as the week goes on," he said.

"It is going to bring the guys that hit the ball further and the shortest clubs up to the green up the board.

"I had a magical number with putter today and got a nice number."

Heading into this week, Funk ranked 85th on the PGA Tour in putts per round, averaging 29.24 per round. A year ago, Funk ranked 111th at 29.07. *Reuters*

Goosen on top

KUALA LUMPUR—Retief Goosen stormed to a two-stroke lead midway through the second round of the Malaysian Open on Friday.

The South African recorded what he described as a 'disappointing' seven-under-par 64 to move to 12 under, two strokes clear of Ireland's Padraig Harrington and Thailand's Thammanoon Srirot in the co-sanctioned European and Asian Tour event.

Goosen, four strokes off the lead after shooting 66 in the first round, played the outward half of the Mines Resort course in a seven-under-par 29 on Friday. *Reuters*

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Fire Task 2. Imperial Act 3. Bhabe's Treasure
Race 2--1. Cool Clay 2. Gladness 3. Julie's Thunder 4. Nasaan ka Irog 4. Truly Ajay
Race 3--1. Bronte 2. Mr. Speaker 3. Ocean Magic
Race 4--1. Southern Charm 2. Duces Tecum 3. Dazzling Doe 4. Silky Sullivan
Race 5--1. Lord of All 2. Silver Story 3. Kitty Hawk
Race 6--1. Dandansoy 2. Latin Beat 3. Bogart 4. All for Glory 5. Speed Master
Race 7--1. Common Ground 2. Graceful Ann 3. Silakbo 4. Elusive Quality 5. Super Dancer
Race 8--1. Velocity 2. Sensational 3. James Joy
Race 9--1. Run Like D Wind 2. My Aday 3. Peek A Boo 4. Ahoy There 5. Race for Gold
Race 10--1. Simply Great 2. Sandali Lang 3. Steel Wheel 4. Maayo Sigaw/The Bronx 5. Earth Angel
Race 11--1. Everybodyhappy 2. Free Entrance 3. Friendly Venture 4. Silver Cho Cho 5. Silver Lining
Race 12--1. Romario 2. Eyewitness 3. Tervalac 4 Amuridik 5. Maging Matalino
Race 13--1. Bukambibig 2. Rea Gem 3. Blink & Wink 4 Aya's Star 5. River Bandi 6. Precious Stone

Metro chess meet gets going today

THE METROPOLITAN Chess Association (MCA) Amateur Legue first quarter reels off at 8 a.m. today, Saturday, Feb. 22 at the Lotus Garden Hotel located at the corner of Padre Faura and Mabini Sts., Ermita, Manila. Jointly supported by Converse, San Miguel Beer, Okuya Japanese Restaurant, JCA Commercial Signs, Perfection Printers Corp. and Awards Specialist, more than P150,000 in cash prizes will be disputed by about forty participating chess teams led by defending champion Team Bataan of Gov. Leonardo Ding Roman. A brief opening ceremony will start at 8 a.m. with Manila First District Congressman Joey D. Hizon and NCFP President Matt Defensor as guests of honor. Hostilities will exactly start at 9 a.m.

LSGH bets tame Samsung foes

LA Salle Greenhills upstaged the teams in college play with a tournament-best effort for 36 holes even as Ateneo and Sto. Niño Learning Center appeared poised for big victories in the other divisions after the penultimare round of the Samsung Interscholastics Golf Championships at the Villamor Golf Club.

Kevin Lachica, Magnum Bakunawa and Miko Yee conspired for 82 points to usher the high school team LSGH to an eight-point margin over sister squad La Salle-Zobel with a 173 aggregate that was the best total so far among the 18 squads entered in all three levels.

While Ateneo continued to dominate both men's and ladies categories of the college battle, the Asistio brothers, Antonio, Gabriel and Anelo, carrying the colors of Sto. Niño are out to deny them a third title in this revival of an event sponsored by Samsung.

The other sponsors are Hotshots Flame-Grilled Burgers, Gatorade, Fila, Custom Clubmakers and Greg Norman Shirts by Planet Sports.

Sto. Niño rebounded from a slow start to post 74 points behind the 29 of Antonio Asistio to pull away by 19 points over the Gabriel Villareal-led Ateneo squad. Sto. Niño totalled 134 while Ateneo which led in the first round was at 115.

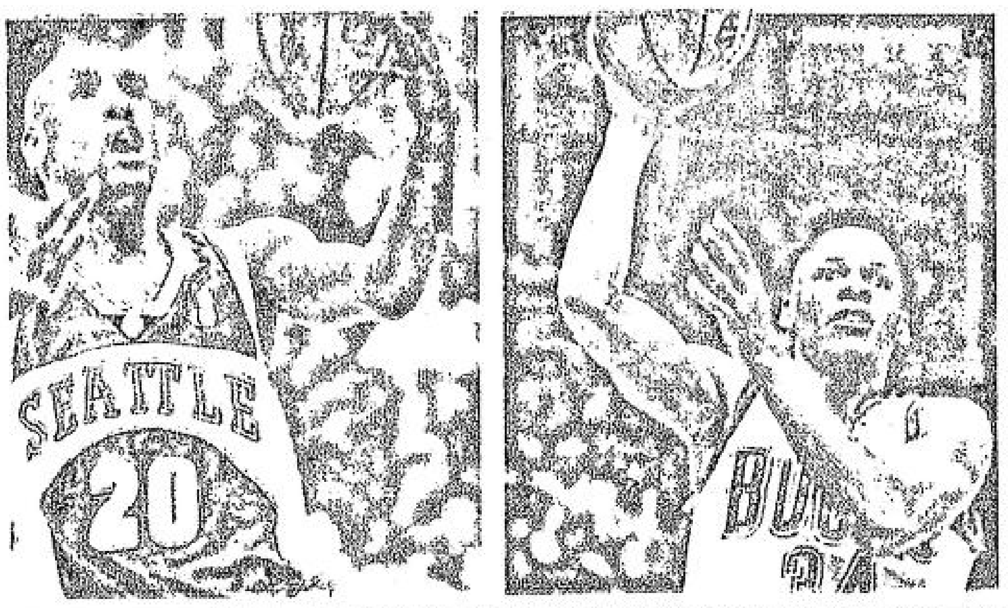
Vendrick Tan scored a three-over round for 33 points and John Gobing added a 30 and Juan Carlos Reyes a 25 for Ateneo 88 for the day that gave them a 170 total and a huge 14-stroke lead over La Salle which got 29 from Sammy Sy.

The elementary division players took a day off and were to play the final round yesterday with the Poveda C team of Nicole Serapio, Charlene Marie Abalos and Isabella Marie Pineda trying to protect a six-point lead in the team event and Crystal Superal and Dottie Ardina disputing the individual title.

PHILIPPINE ladies champion Heidi Chua (left) tries to cheer up Poveda mainstay Ma. Cristina Potenciano and her mother Joy.

BLOCKBUSTER TRADE

Payton to Milwaukee; Seattle gets Allen



THIS combo shows undated file photos of Seattle SuperSonics point guard Gary Payton (left) and Milwaukee Bucks guard Ray Allen both going up for shots in NBA action. Seattle traded 34-year-old Payton to Milwaukee for Buck backcourt hero Ray Allen in a blockbuster trade at the National Basketball Association transfer deadline. AFP

SEATTLE—The Seattle SuperSonics and the Milwaukee Bucks pulled off a major trade at the NBA's trade deadline Thursday, with Seattle sending Gary Payton and Desmond Mason to Milwaukee for Ray Allen, Kevin Ollie, Ronald Murray and a conditional first round draft pick.

Payton was to have played his 1,000th game in a Seattle uniform on Friday night. Instead he'll be wearing a Milwaukee uniform when the Bucks play in Seattle in a nationally televised game after re-joining his former coach George Karl.

Seattle also sent point guard Kenny Anderson to the New Orleans Hornets for Elden Campbell in a separate deal.

Earlier, the Boston Celtics sent point guard Shammond Williams to Denver for center Mark Blount and forward Mark Bryant, along with a future second round draft pick and cash.

The 34-year-old Payton is considered one of the NBA's top point guards. A nine-time All-Star, he had played for the Sonics for 13 seasons and is in the final year of a seven-year contract that pays him around $13 million this season.

Payton is averaging 20.8 points per game and 8.8 assists. He scored 31 points in his final game with Seattle Wednesday night.

Mason, 25, is averaging 14.1 points and 6.4 rebounds per game in his third season with Seattle.

Allen, 27, is averaging 21.3 points and 3.5 assists a game.

He was recently named to the United States team for the 2004 Olympics and is a three-time NBA All-Star.

A three-time all-star, Allen is in year four of a six-year, $71 million contract.

Anderson is another point guard and will be a free agent at the end of the season.

Campbell, a 6-11 center, is also slated for free agency. He has been bothered by knee problems all season.

The Nuggets get Williams, a fifth-year guard, to try to help a team with the NBA's second-worst record at 12-43. He averaged 7.3 points and 2.5 assists with Boston.

Blount was averaging 5.2 points and 3.4 rebounds. He signed with Denver last summer after spending his first two seasons in Boston. *Reuters*

Mavs end Spurs 9-game win run

DALLAS—Steve Nash scored 29 points and added 10 assists to lead the Dallas Mavericks to a 95-87 win over the San Antonio Spurs in a showdown between two of the top teams in the Western Conference in NBA action on Thursday.

Dallas (42-12) won its fourth straight game and opened up a five game lead atop the Midwest Division on the Spurs, who saw their nine-game winning streak snapped.

Nash scored a key basket and added two free throws in the final 35 seconds to secure the victory for the Mavericks, who are 24-4 at home this season. San Antonio played the final eight minutes without Tim Duncan, who took a finger in the eye and did not return.

Dirk Nowitzki added 22 points for the Mavericks, including a clutch 3-pointer in the final two minutes. Michael Finley added 19 points and had eight rebounds.

In East Rutherford, Jason Kidd scored 31 points - 18 of them in the fourth quarter - as the New Jersey Nets scored a 98-91 win over the Indiana Pacers in a showdown between two of the Eastern Conference's top teams.

COMPLETE RESULTS

New Jersey 98, Indiana 91; Sacramento 105, Boston 83: Dallas 95, San Antonio 87 *Reuters*

La Salle honors sports patron

IN SIMPLE but meaningful ceremonies, the De La Salle University-Manila Physical Education and Sports Center was formally named in honor of Enrique M. Razon.

Josephine K. Razon, widow of Don Enrique, Carmelita I. Quebengco, DLSU-Manila external vice-president, Felicia Razon, spouse of ICTSI president and chair Ricky Razon and Bro. Josiah Benedict Lidinski, FSC, VP Emeritus Dev't and Alumni Affairs recently unveiled the markers before a selected group of officials and alumni.

The imposing nine-storey high sports center boasts of basketball and volleyball courts, an Olympic-size, 6-lane swimming pool, classrooms for PE students, venue for table tennis, canteen, library and a souvenir shop.

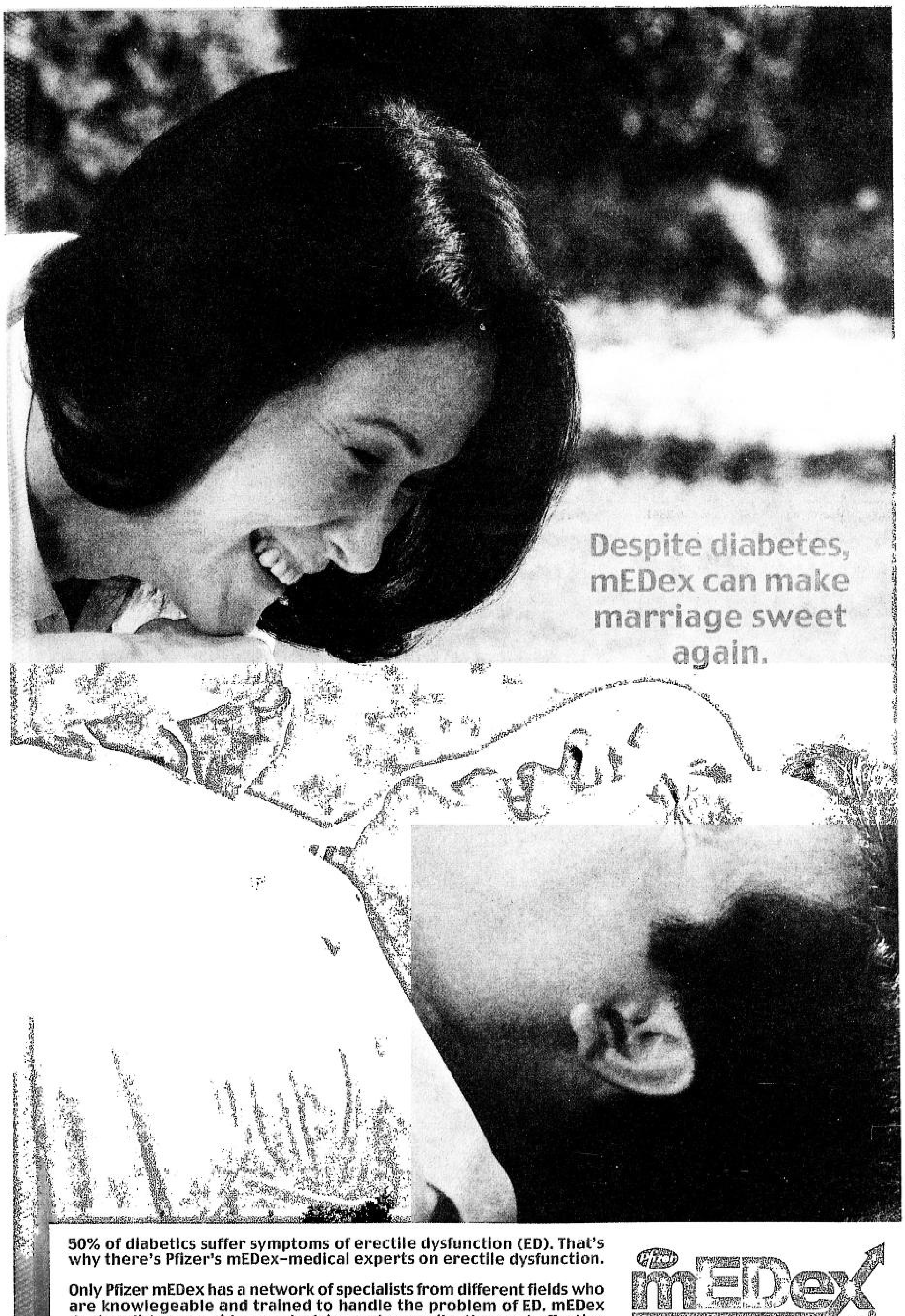
It also boasts of a state-of-the-art gym for fitness and weight training. The gym includes therapy and rehabilitation rooms for athletes recovering from injuries or those who need to tone their muscles.

To accommodate students and visitors alike, the Razon center has allocated four of its floors as parking spaces.

La Salle is known for its commitment to sporting excellence. Displayed at the Razon center are the countless trophies, citations and medals, the Archers have won in the UAAP and other big-time competitions.

Bro. Rolly Dizon FSC, president of the DLSU System, and Ricky Razon gave their remarks during the naming rites. University Chaplain Francis Salcedo blessed the center.

La Salle-Greenhills president Bro. Bernie Oca, sportsman-businessman Terry Capistrano, team manager of the basketball, track and field and swimming teams and assistant manager Manny Salgado, Lito Tatjuatco, president of the alumni association, Jose Kalaw Jr. of the alumni affairs, Johnny Valdes, Fernando Lucero, Tony Lim, Bobong Velez, college dean and former PSC chair Philip Ella Juico and Danny Jose, head of the Office of Sports Development graced the event.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Hontiveros backtracks on Asiad criteria

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee first vice president Steve Hontiveros, overall in charge of the athletes' selection for the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games, yesterday backtracked on his earlier stand after he drew fire from the Philippine Sports Commission regarding the criteria to be used in the Games.

Hontiveros claimed there are two sets of criteria for selection: The general guidelines which asks honesty from the national sports associations in recommending athletes to the December SEA Games and the detailed guidelines which require a silver medal finish in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur SEA Games or a bronze in the Busan Asian Games.

The bowling chief said PSC representatives "may not have reported the right thing" and didn't realize that the "honesty policy" would be done with the detailed guidelines in mind. He also explained that the PSC representatives in the selection commission weren't given copies of the detailed guidelines.

But the PSC representative during the commission meeting, executive director Ed Mateo, said he has yet to make a report to PSC chair Eric Buhain.

Buhain last Thursday lambasted the POC criteria saying it is too "lax" and doesn't conform to what was agreed upon during the meeting, citing news reports that said the POC is merely relying on honesty from the NSAs.

INQUIRER sources said the "erroneous reports" came from rowing association secretary general Nestor Ilagan who also served as observer during the meeting.

In fact, several national sports associations have already put the blame on Ilagan regarding his "irresponsible" remarks which triggered the whole issue. The NSA heads claimed that Ilagan is throwing his weight around and using his "closeness" with POC president Celso Dayrit to influence some NSAs.

Hontiveros said it is the NSAs themselves who know best regarding SEAG inclusion. "In that regard, we rely on them to be sincere on making their recommendations."

But he added that all the recommendations must be "distilled" through the detailed guidelines. "If I have, say, a bowler who hasn't won a medal yet but is definitely in a lot better shape to beat another of my bowler who did, I think it's justifiable to send the first bowler."

However, the PSC maintained that such example is applicable only to measurable reports and not in sports that are decided subjectively like gymnastics, boxing, taekwondo and ball and racket events like tennis and badminton and other sports like canoeing and yachting.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by
Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA - Nets vs Wizards, 8 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.), Blazers vs Lakers (Game 7, 2000 W. Conf. Finals), 12 noon (r - 11 p.m.), Mavericks vs Rockets, 9:30 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.), ESPN

NBA Inside Stuff, 3:30 p.m. (r), Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Nissan Open, 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. (r), Star Sports

The Golf Club 2003, 7:30 p.m. (r), Star Sports

MIKE AND SON
Boxer Mike Tyson laughs while his son Miguel yawns during a news conference at the Grand Casino in Tunica, Mississippi Thursday. Tyson is scheduled to fight Clifford Etienne in Memphis on Feb. 22.
REUTERS

Ucap begins cock screening

THE MONTH-LONG screening of cocks will be conducted next month by the United Cockers Association of the Philippines (Ucap) screening committee in connection with the coming stag derbies in September and October at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez, chair of the Ucap screening committee, said that screening and wing banding will run from March 1 to 31.

"To all my fellow cockers and gamefowl breeders, please be advised that there is absolutely no extension on the date of screening," Enriquez stressed.

All interested parties may contact Ms Vicky D. Bugayong at 928-7582 or 924-5051 to 71 or 09176148354 or 09195185899.

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Mandaluyong tilt starts March 10

FIERCE cockfighting action will be the main fare of Mandaluyong Coliseum's ``Super 8-Cock Derby" on March 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15, where the champion will drive home the latest 2003 model of Mercedes Benz (C-200 Kompressor).

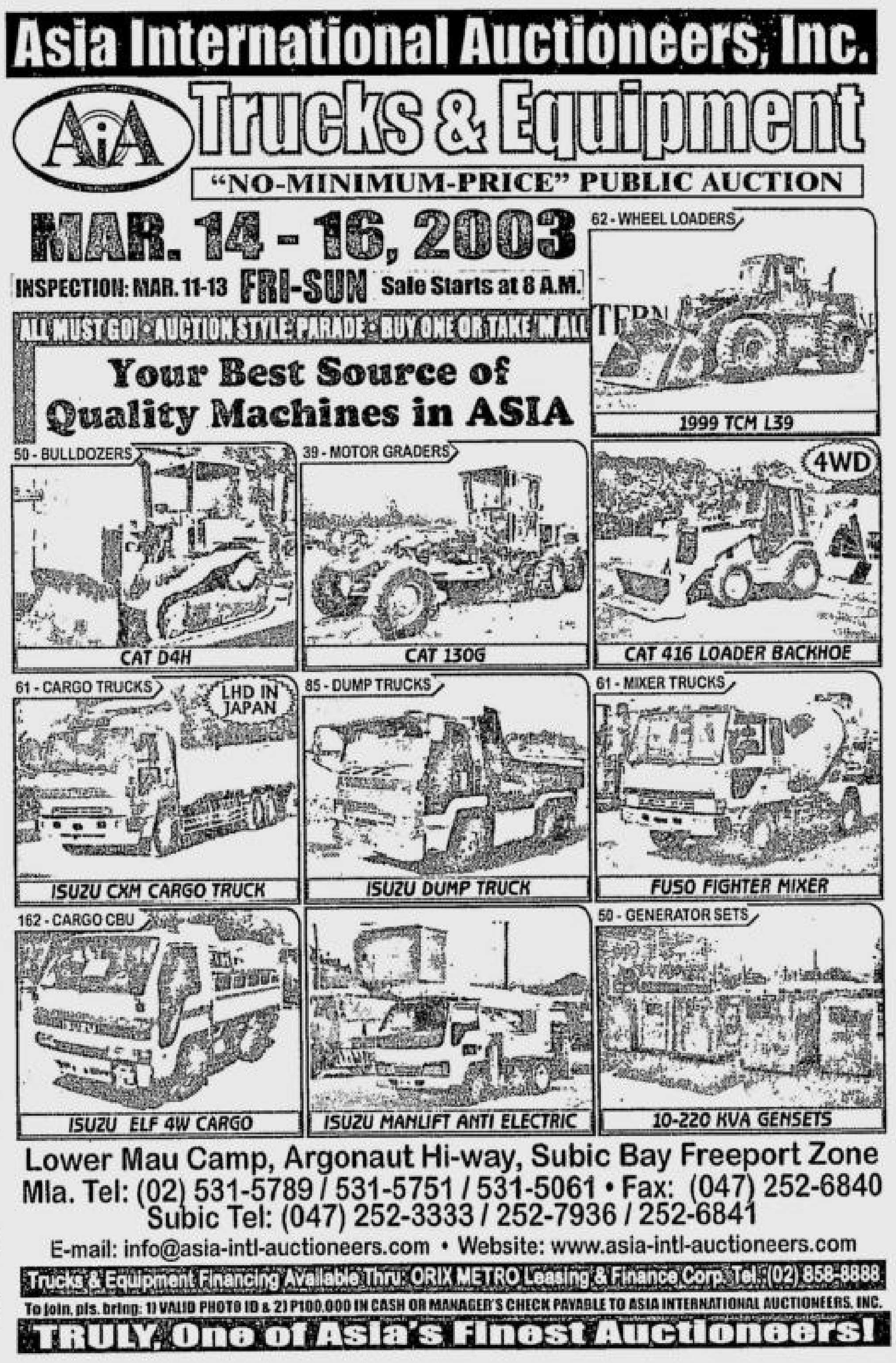
According to derby host and OPMI president Vic Yu, a maximum of 40 entries per day will be accepted during the 3-cock elimination rounds (March 10, 11, and 12). The 2-cock semifinals blasts off on March 13 and the 3-cock finals on March 15.

An insurance money of P1 million (guaranteed) will go to six pointers while P500,000 awaits the champion handler. The runner-up finishers get P100,000 while P50,000 will go to the winning gaffer. Entry fee is P33,000.

Forty participants have registered for the first day of elims on March 10 and among them were Alex Tang, Benjie Lim, Madlambayan Brothers, Vice Gov. Mario Espinosa, Commissioner Arayata, Dicky Lim, Muroy Dolorico, Vice Mayor Mercado, lawyer Rudy Salud, Mike Romulo, Ucap president Raymond Velayo, James Uy, ASF Farms, *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, Bingbong Coscoluella and Gerry Ramos.

Competing on March 11 are Rey Briones and Masbate, Joey Wyjanco, Romero Yu, Sen. Ramon Revilla, Bobbit Ples, Capt. R. Compas, Bobby Wong and Choy Ampil.

Derby sponsors are Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer, Sagupaan Mite Free, Complexor 3000, Pagcor, Casino Filipino and Washout Shampoo from Lakpue Drug Inc. For inquiries, contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.



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Sailfish time again

COMMENTARY
By Vic Vic Villavicencio

SO what if it is hundreds of kilometers north of Manila. Distance never stopped passionate sport fishermen from getting their highest at the moment big game fish strike at trolled lures and fresh baits. The adrenalin surge goes on and on through the ensuing minutes of trying to keep all that fish from throwing off the hook, or breaking the line, and eventually having it safely on board.

In just a matter of weeks, it will be sailfish hunting season again out there on the waters of Santa Ana Cagayan. It will be big game fishing time again. Seasoned sailfish anglers will even be going after still bigger game, like the Pacific Blue Marlin.

We can imagine fellow anglers getting ready for this sharpening hooks, inspecting and replacing frayed lines on their newly lubricated reels. There are even those who are preparing their boats, Boston Whaler types, for trailering all the way from Manila to Cagayan via the highway that goes through the winding roads of Santa Fe.

Others will be fishing on the outrigger, Briggs & Stratton-powered bancas, the native and more adventurous way of going after a big game such as the dorado, barracuda, tanguigue, sailfish and blue marlin. Yes, it will soon be billfish season again, and the thought is already sending excited shivers down the spines of the outdoors man who consider himself a big game angler.

Ask any of the handful of sports editors and journalists who got a taste of this last year, and he will tell you how it is an advantage to tell your grandchildren about.

Bottom fishing for lapulapu and other reef fish is fun. A hook-up with talakitok can be quite a thrill. And tying to bring up and land a 50-kilo yeallowfin tuna at night never lacks for excitement. But catching a sailfish has a uniqueness all its own.

It's quite a trick to recognize a strike that calls for a drop back–letting the bait free spool for a few seconds to entice the fish to grab the bait more securely in its mouth. There's not enough space here to go into every detail. A popular expression applies: You'll never know until you try.

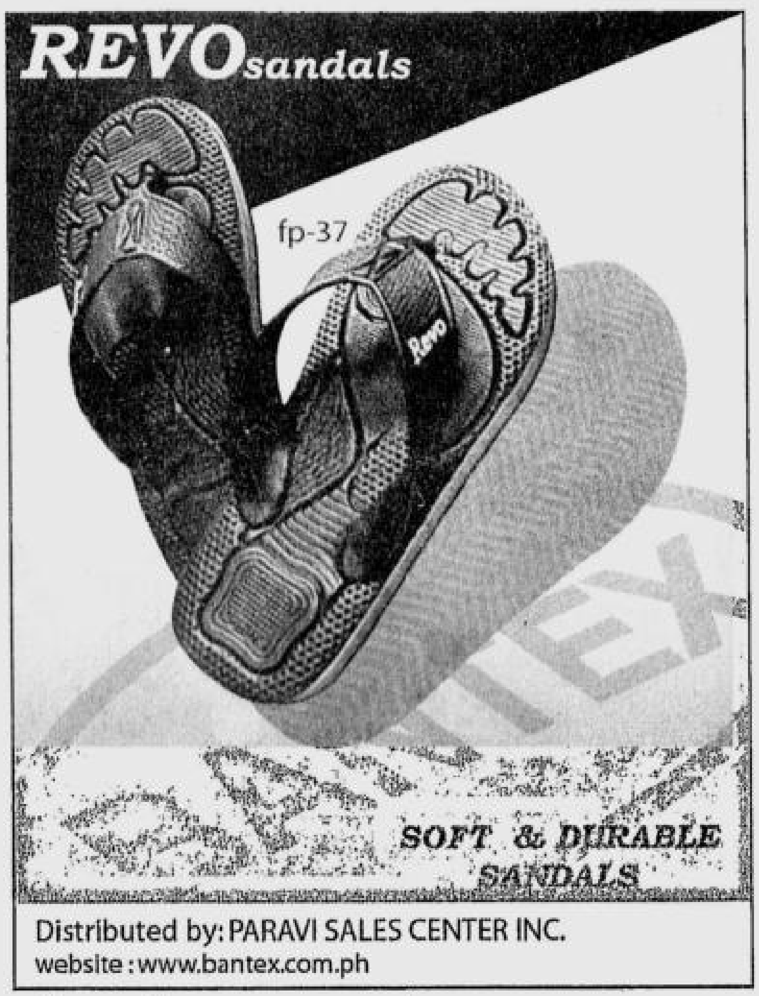
Black conducting summer basketball camp

BURLINGTON Philippines Inc. resumes its summer basketball camp to be conducted by former PBA coach and product endorser Norman Black.

In line with its basketball program, Burlington launched an anti-bacterial sports socks designed to keep the feet healthy.

Made from combed cotton fibers immersed with Ruco-Bac biocides, it is blocking the growth of bacteria and fungi in the skin.

The company has also held a similar basketball camp in the past with good turnouts.



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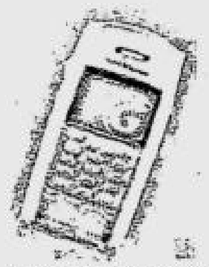
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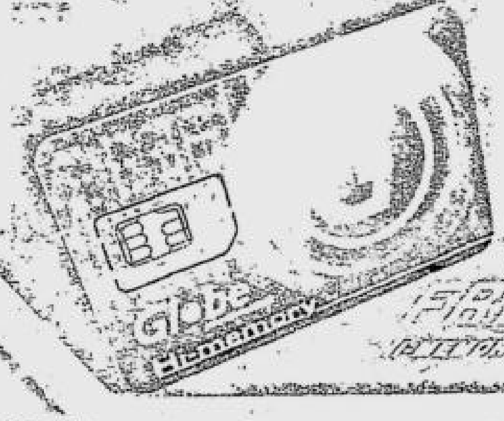

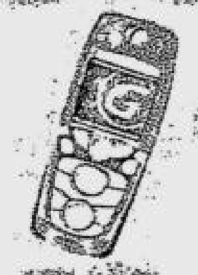
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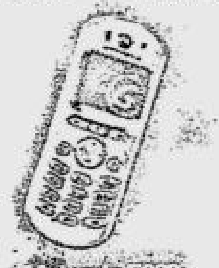
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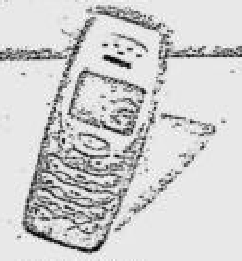
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Editor **Louie C. Camino**

■ La Consolaçion disowns 'Winona' A28

■ QC's Belmonte cheats death A28

Ces Drilon: It was hit-and-run

DRILON

BROADCAST journalist Ces Drilon has clarified that she was on the receiving end of a hit-and-accident she figured in on Tuesday night.

Drilon, 40, who hosts the late night program "Pipol," said that, contrary to initial police report, suspect Dante Luarez did not surrender to the police.

Luarez was driving a National Power Corp. (Napocor) vehicle that hit Drilon's new Hon-

CES/ A28

Police jolted

EBDANE

By Alcuin Papa

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office vowed to institute a major reshuffle of station and precinct commanders all over Metro Manila.

PNP Chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. instructed directorial officials to ensure that 85 per cent of their staff are deployed to crime-prone areas.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina ordered the police to focus on solving street crimes over heinous ones.

But the most significant offshoot of President Arroyo's rebuke of police failure to solve street crimes was the disturbance manifested by Quezon City policemen which threw the blame on the bureaucracy.

Investigators at the Central Police District told the INQUIRER they could not work properly to solve street crimes because of their preoccupation with the bureaucracy in the police hierarchy.

"They require us to attend the Monday morning flag raising. But some of us are busy following up cases," an investigator complained.

He claimed their officials also slap a high fine—no pay for four days—on policemen who fail to attend the flag raising rites.

"What if we were casing out a suspect or on surveillance or stake out? The tendency is to rush back to Camp Karingal to attend the flag-raising. By this time, the suspect might have slipped away already,"a third investigator complained.

The investigators said they should be left alone to do their jobs, if "they hope to bring down the crime rate on the streets."

On the other hand, they said the President's rebuke "should serve as an eye-opener to higher ups."

NCRPO chief Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco yesterday said the impending reshuffle is part of police efforts to fight street crimes like holdups, robbery and cell phone snatchings.

Velasco said his office would start an assessment of the performance of present station and precinct commanders.

Velasco also claimed he and other police officials were not rebuked by the President.

"We were only reminded to concentrate on street crimes and not focus on high-profile crimes," he said.

The NCRPO chief identified some areas in the metropolis that are susceptible to street crimes, namely the Crossing area in Mandaluyong, Cubao, Commonwealth, Culiat in Cubao, Maharlika Village in Taguig, Antipolo City, Marcos Highway, the University Belt, Tondo and Caloocan City.

In Baguio City, Sec. Lina said President Arroyo's criticism of the dismal police performance was justified.

On the Ebdane instruction, it was observed that there was nothing new in the strategy as past PNP chiefs had adopted the similar tack. With a reports from TJ Burgonio and Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau.

Coding experiment extended two weeks

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE METRO Manila Council yesterday decided to extend for two more weeks the experimentation on the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Scheme.

Metro Manila' Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando said yesterday that, from Feb. 24 to 28, private vehicles would exclusively be under the UVVRP or the "number coding" scheme.

In the week after next, or from March 3 to 7, all private utility and public utility vehicles, including the buses, would be under the UVVRP.

Under the previous set-up before the MMDA began its experimentation on the UVVRP, all vehicles, save for buses, had to comply with the number coding.

Fernando said the MMDA needs more time to gather data regarding the effectivity of implementing the UVVRP.

"We don't have sufficient data yet. We need more information to be able to make a proper decision (on the fate of the UVVRP)," he told reporters.

The MMDA chair also refused to give an assessment on the three-week old trial suspension of the number-coding scheme in the whole of Metro Manila.

"We want to avoid making assessments because we don't want to influence the results," Fernando said, adding that after the two-week extension is up, the Metro Manila Council would meet again to decide on the permanent fate of the UVVRP.

But before the two weeks are up, he said the MMDA would call for a public hearing to get the opinion of concerned sectors regarding the implementation of the number coding scheme.

The Metro Manila Council also passed a resolution which confirmed Fernando's decision to lift the buses' exemption from the UVVRP and also authorized the MMDA chair to "decide whether to lift or not the UVVRP as the situation warrants."

Arrest Strunk

THE PASIG City Regional Trial Court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Rod Lauren Strunk, the primary suspect in the killing of his wife, actress Nida Blanca. Branch 156 Judge Alex Quiroz. Arraignment was set at 8:30 a.m., March 11. The warrant would be served at Strunk's known address in the country. Strunk is in California but, with the arrest warrant, the Department of Justice can now formally ask the United States to extradite him back to the country.

Philip Tubeza

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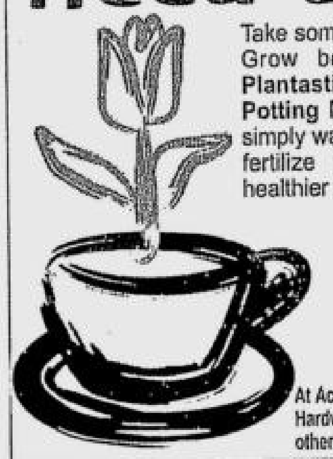

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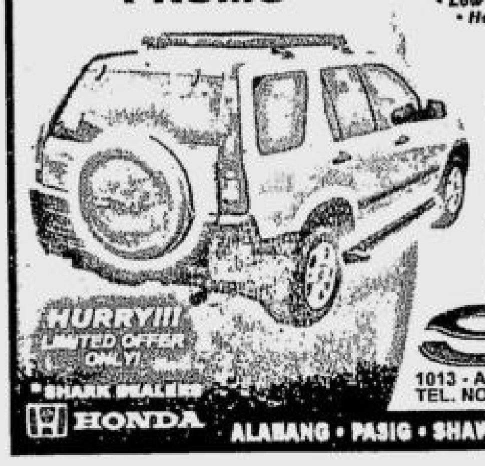

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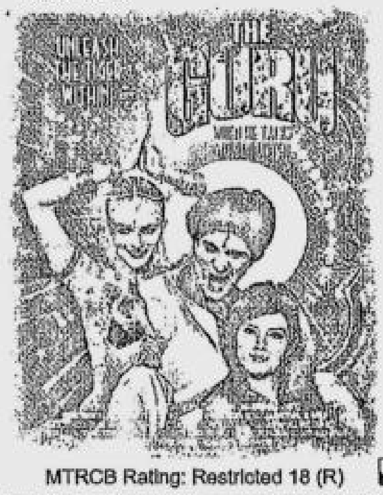

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1	TOMAGANS
2	DAREDEVIL

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1	AB NORMAL
2	ABANDON
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4 (SDDS)	DAREDEVIL
5 (DTS)	DAREDEVIL
6	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
7	ABANDON

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1	TOMAGUNS
2	DAREDEVIL

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926, 534-2185

1	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
2	AB NORMAL
3 (DTS)	DAREDEVIL

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2 (DTS)	THEY
3 (DOLBY)	DAREDEVIL
4	HERO

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	THEY
2 (DOLBY)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 (DTS)	DAREDEVIL
4	HERO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SPECIAL SCREENING
2	AB NORMAL
3 (DOLBY)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	AB NORMAL
2	I SPY
3 (DOLBY)	THEY
4 (DTS)	FEMME FATALE

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	THEY
2 (DTS)	I SPY
3	AB NORMAL

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	DAREDEVIL
2	AB NORMAL
3 (DTS)	BUKANG BIBIG
4	TOMAGANS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	DAREDEVIL
2	AB NORMAL
3 (DTS)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4	FEMME FATALE
5	BETTER THAN SEX

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	DAREDEVIL
2	AB NORMAL
3	SUKDULAN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	DAREDEVIL
2	TRY SEVENTEEN
3	BALAT SIBUYAS

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	AB NORMAL
2	TRY SEVENTEEN
3 (DTS)	DAREDEVIL
4 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RING

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BETTER THAN SEX
2	HERO
3	AB NORMAL

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	AB NORMAL
2	I SPY
3	DAREDEVIL
4	TWO WEEKS NOTICE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	DAREDEVIL
2	AB NORMAL
3 (DIGITAL)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4	FEMME FATALE

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	MAGNIFICO
2	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 (DOLBY)	SHAOLIN SOCCER
4 (DTS)	DAREDEVIL

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang

Tel. 85035-71 to 72

Daredevil
NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	AMAZON
2	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
3	DAREDEVIL
4	THEY
5	DAREDEVIL
6	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
7	SUKDULAN
8	MAGNIFICO

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2	ABANDON
3	DAREDEVIL
4	AMAZON
5	DAREDEVIL
6	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
7	DAREDEVIL
8	THEY
9	THE EYE
10	MAGNIFICO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
2	HERO
3	MAGNIFICO
4	DAREDEVIL
5	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
6	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
7	DAREDEVIL
8	AMAZON
9	DAREDEVIL
10	THEY
11	SUKDULAN
12	LEGEND OF TOMAGAN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	DAREDEVIL
2	THE EYE
3	ABANDON
4	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
5	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
6	DAREDEVIL
7	AMAZON
8	HERO
9	DAREDEVIL
10	THEY
11	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
12	MAGNIFICO

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	DAREDEVIL
2	DAREDEVIL
3	AMAZON
4.	DAREDEVIL
5	ABANDON
6	EL CRIMEN DEL PADRE AMARO
7	THE EYE
8	MAGNIFICO
9	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
10	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
11	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
12	THEY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	THEY
2	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
3	AMAZON
4	AB NORMAL
5	ABANDON
6	DAREDEVIL
7	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
8	DAREDEVIL

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	ABANDON
2	THEY
3	DAREDEVIL
4	THE EYE
5	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
6	DAREDEVIL
7	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
8	DAREDEVIL
9	MAGNIFICO
10	AMAZON

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	DAREDEVIL
2	BELOW
3	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4	BETTER THAN SEX
5	MAGNIFICO
6	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
7	I SPY
8	DAREDEVIL

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
2	DAREDEVIL
3	PELIKULAT AT LIPUNAN
4	BELOW
5	I SPY
6	DAREDEVIL
7	CLOSED
8	MAGNIFICO

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	DAREDEVIL
2	DAREDEVIL
3	FEMME FATALE
4	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
5	MAGNIFICO
6	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	MAGNIFICO
2	DAREDEVIL
3	DAREDEVIL
4	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	DAREDEVIL
2	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3	LEGEND OF TOMAGAN
4	AB NORMAL COLLEGE

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	DAREDEVIL
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3	THEY
4	MAGNIFICO
5	I SPY
6	DAREDEVIL

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1	DAREDEVIL
2	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
3	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4	DAREDEVIL

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884

1	DAREDEVIL
2	MAGNIFICO
3	I SPY
4	DAREDEVIL

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-6976

1	DAREDEVIL 11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END
2	DAREDEVIL 10:30 MF/10:50/1:10/3:30/5:50/8:10/ 10:00 LFS/10:30 LMF/12:20 END

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Galleria 632-9115-16
633-7641 loc. 279

THX	DAREDEVIL 10:15 MF, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30 LMF
2	DAREDEVIL
3	ABANDON
4	AMAZON
5	DAREDEVIL
6	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
7	EL CRIMEN DEL PADRE AMARO
8	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
9	HERO
10	THEY

MATINEE PRICE: P90 THX cinema P75 level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 536-7809-12

1	DAREDEVIL
2	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3	THE EYE
4	ABANDON
5	DAREDEVIL
6	AMAZON
7	DAREDEVIL

Metro East - 682-8193 / 8280
Marcos hway

1	THEY
2	DAREDEVIL
3	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
4	HERO
5	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
6	DAREDEVIL
7	TOMAGANS
8	AMAZON

Novaliches 935-3229-30

1	DAREDEVIL
2	DAREDEVIL
3	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4	TOMAGANS
5	HERO
6	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
7	THEY
8	AMAZON

Malabon 288-0985 / 288-2575
Fiesquare

1	TOMAGANS
2	DAREDEVIL
3	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4	AMAZON

Star Mills- 875-1927
San Fernando, Pamp. 961-5318 / 5270

1	DAREDEVIL
2	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
3	FEMME FATALE
4	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
5	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
6	DAREDEVIL

Imus 471-8188 / 875-3838

1	DAREDEVIL
2	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3	AMAZON
4	DAREDEVIL
5	TOMAGANS
6	MAGNIFICO

Sta. Rosa 049-8370907
Laguna

1	DAREDEVIL
2	MAGNIFICO
3	SHAGNHAI KNGIHTS
4	TRY SEVENTEEN
5	THEY

Bacolod 441-0453 / 0459

1	DAREDEVIL
2	TRY SEVENTEEN
3	THEY
4	I SPY
5	BETTER THAN SEX
6	AB NORMAL

Iloilo 336-8077-78

1	DAREDEVIL
2	I SPY
3	MAGNIFICO
4	BELOW
5	8 MILE
6	DAREDEVIL

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

9-year-old boy killed by cop chasing pusher

By Leila B. Salaverria

A BULLET fired from the gun of a policeman who was supposedly chasing a drug pusher ended the life of John Rendell A. Enriquez, 9, who was playing outside his house in Pasay City last Thursday night.

The boy died from a gunshot wound in the chest in a hospital a few hours after he was shot by PO3 Alberto Aladano at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, police said.

Aladano, who is assigned to the Pasay Police Community Precinct 9, told police that he was buying milk at a store when he chanced upon someone buying shabu from a notorious drug dealer known only as Baroy.

He claimed that Baroy had pulled out a gun so he drew his own gun, fired a shot at the pusher, but hit the boy instead.

Pasay police turned over Aladano to Parañaque police headquarters last night upon the orders of Southern Police District Director Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez.

Parañaque police chief Supt. Rolando Estilles said Aladano's story would be investigated, adding that witnesses gave statements contrary to the Pasay policeman's account.

He said Aladano had violated rules of engagement because he was not in his area of jurisdiction when he ran after the alleged drug dealer. Also, Aladano was off duty at the time of the incident, was in civilian clothes and did not coordinate with the drug enforcement unit (DEU) of Parañaque, he said.

Estilles added that under the rules, Aladano was not even allowed to fire a warning shot because he had been in a crowded place. He said Aladano had apologized to the boy's family yesterday.

Pasay Police Chief Sr. Supt. Oscar Catalan said Aladano was charged with extortion several years ago.

Man, 55, arrested for rape of 1-year-old

By Tina Santos

A MALE babysitter was arrested for allegedly raping his year-old charge in Caloocan City last Thursday night.

Suspect Charlie Aquino of Camarin, Caloocan was picked up by police and barangay officials at about 8 p.m. on Thursday at his house after the victim's mother sought the help of authorities.

SPO4 Marilou Rheberg of Caloocan City Police Women's and Children's Desk said the the rape took place in Aquino's house on noontime of February 15 when the baby's mother was doing laundry. Police said Aquino had gained the trust of the victim's family by babysitting the child.

Aquino denied the charges.

For raping a 4-year-old girl and strangling her to death five years ago in Caloocan, construction worker Antonio Nabual was sentenced to die by lethal injection.

In an 8-page decision, Judge Silvestre Bello of the Caloocan City Regional Trial Court Branch 128 also ordered Nabual, then 26, to pay the victim's family P125,000 in damages.

Court records showed that a white "Good Morning" towel was found beside the victim's body which was discovered in an abandoned house near her home in Sapang Alat, Pangarap Village, Caloocan on the night of January 1, 1998.

Several witnesses told the court that the towel was often seen draped around Nabual's.

Medico legal results showed the girl suffered several injuries in her private parts. Ligature marks in her neck, inflicted with the towel, indicated that the victim was strangled to death.

During the investigation, Nabual admitted he used the towel to silence the victim when she was making noise during the rape.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ABANDON - P13 12:45,2:55,5:05,7:15 DAREDEVIL - P13 10:10	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS GP 12:10,2:40,5:10, 7:40,10:10	DAREDEVIL P13 11:40,2:10,4:40, 7:10,9:40
HERO P13 12:50,3:05,5:20, 7:35,9:50	TWO WEEKS NOTICE P13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:00	DAREDEVIL P13 11:10,1:30,3:50, 6:10,8:30,11:00

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
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DOLBY DIGITAL
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CINEMA 1	DAREDEVIL 10:30, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30 7:50, 10:10 P13
CINEMA 2	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS 11:30 , 2:10 , 4:45 , 7:20 , 10:00 GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • [illegible]

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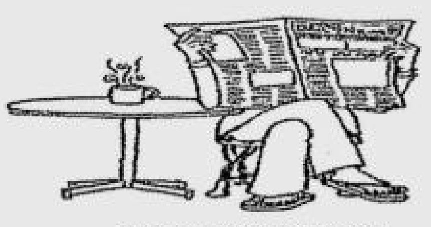

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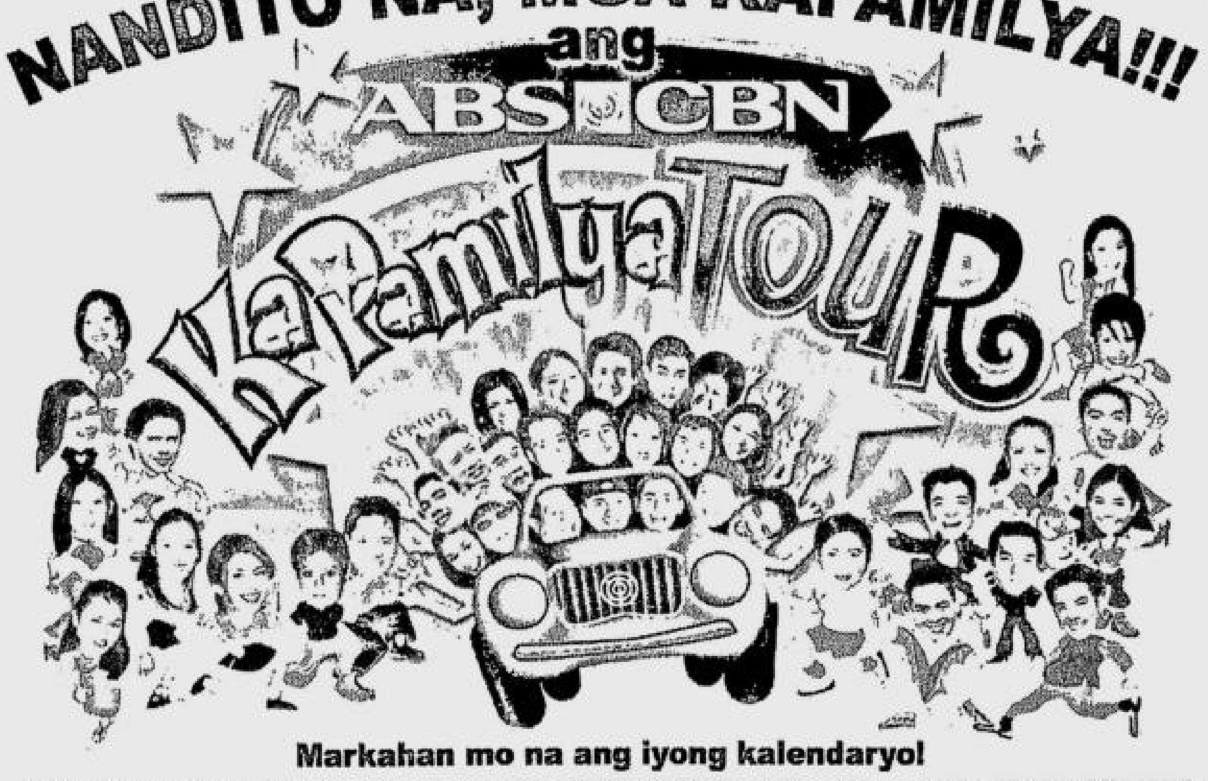
MTRCB RATING PG 13 Parents are strongly cautioned not to bring children below 13 yrs. old to watch this movie because of the intensity of the horror & visual content.

SCREAM
NOW LIKE
THERE'S NO
TOMORROW!
Starring LEE SIN-JE
LAWRENCE CHOU
THE EYE
NAYKUPUU...K-KITA KO SILA!!
THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!!!

NANDITO NA, MGA KAPAMILYA!!!
ang ABS-CBN



Markahan mo na ang iyong kalendaryo!

TOUR SCHEDULE

Feb 23: (4pm) **SM CENTERPOINT** - *April Boy*
(4pm) **SM NORTH EDSA** - *"Berks"*
(4pm) **SM SOUTHMALL** - *Piolo Pascual*
(4pm) **STA. LUCIA** - *"Ngayong Nandito Ka" Cast*
(4pm) **SM FAIRVIEW** - *Carlos Agassi*
(4pm) **ROBINSON'S NOVALICHES** - *Freshmen*

Mar. 1: (4pm) **EVER ORTIGAS** - *Carlos Agassi*
(4pm) **EVER COMMONWEALTH** - *"Klasmeyts"*

Mar. 2: (4pm) **SM BACOOR** - *Carlos Agassi*
(4pm) **SM MANILA** - *"Berks"*
(4pm) **EVER COMMONWEALTH** - *April Boy*

Mar. 9: (4pm) **SM SOUTHMALL** - *Carlos Agassi*

Tuloy lang po ang tutok sa ABS-CBN para sa mga tour schedules.

DAHIL TULOY-TULOY DIN ANG FUN AT GIMIK NA SULIT NA SULIT!

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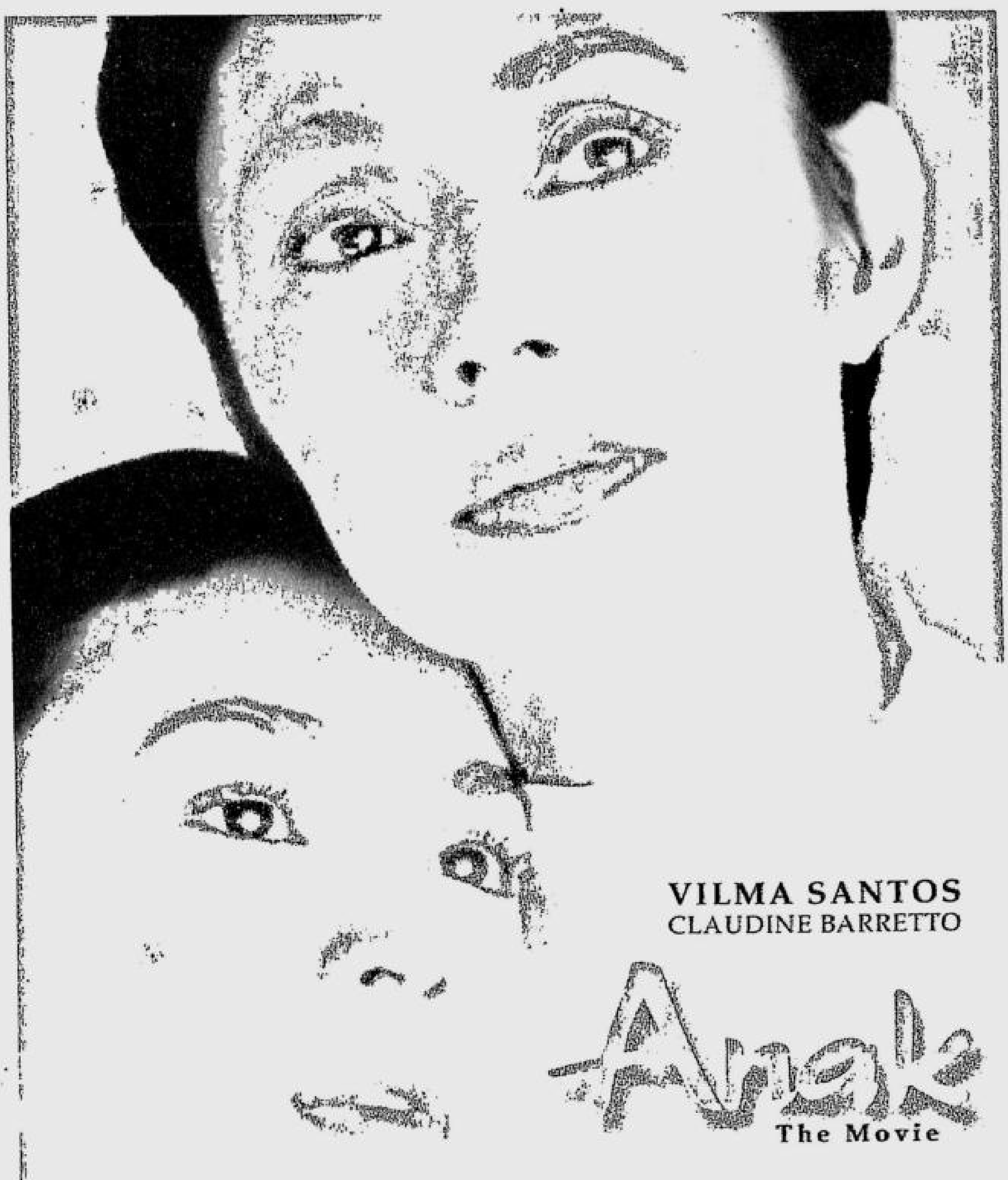
Halika na!

ABS-CBN STAR RECORDS STAR CINEMA ABS CBN PUBLISHING, INC. WRR 101.9 For Life STI
50 YEARS ABS-CBN TELEVISION SINCE 1953



VILMA SANTOS
CLAUDINE BARRETTO
Anak
The Movie

Ang pinakaunang DVD release ng
Star Cinema ay narito na!
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"Anak" *music video and other special features!*
STAR CINEMA STAR RECORDS

Darna! She never looked so good!

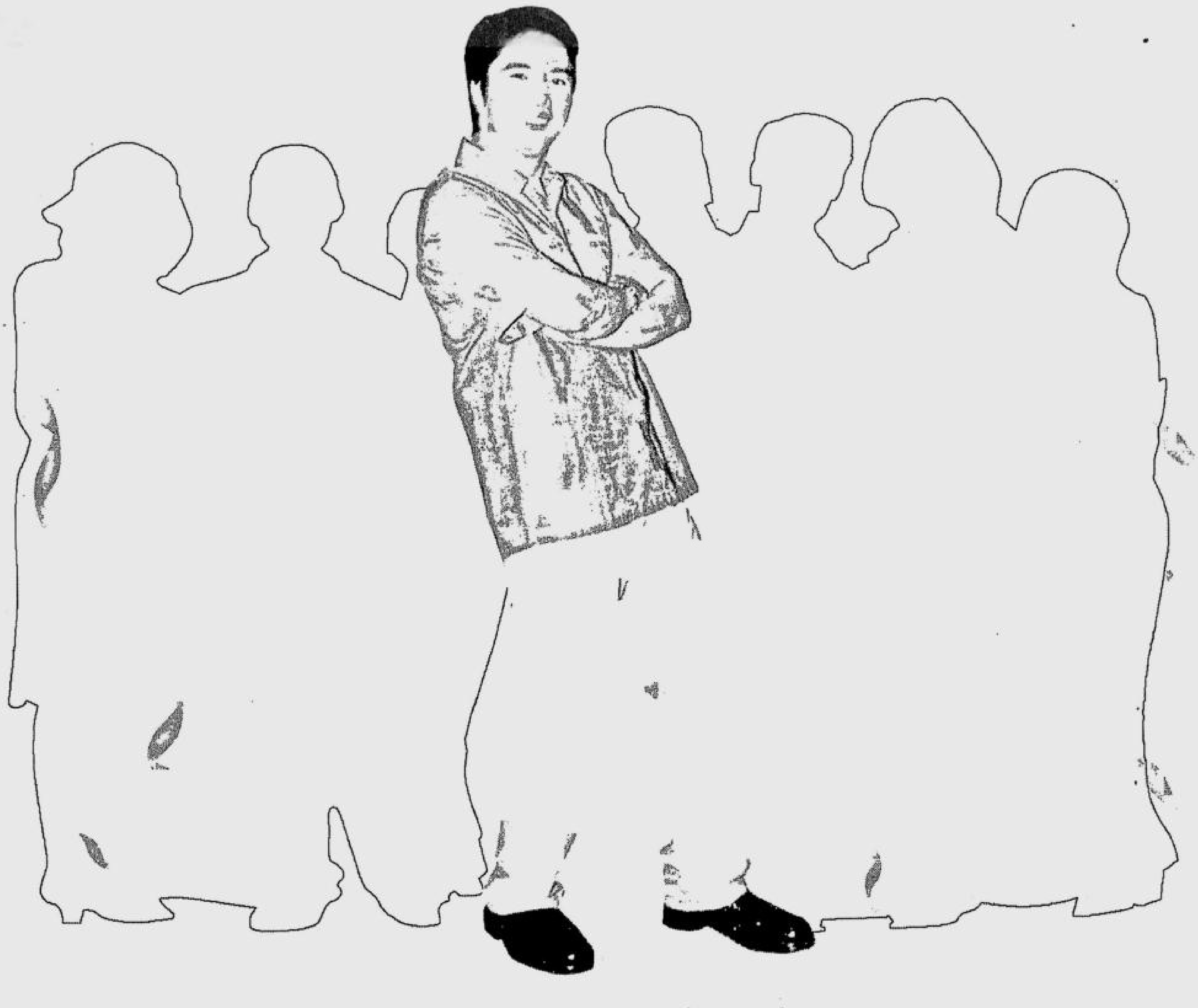
02.22

THE FUSION B

NGAYONG 12:00NN

Simula na ang simulcast ng ABS-CBN and Studio 23! Sabayang mapapanood ang pinaka-aabangang premiere telecast ng pinakabagong noontime show ng ABS-CBN.

Ngayon... malalaman na ninyo kung sino ang pitong makakasama ni kapatid na Willie at ang mga masuwerteng mananalo sa "**HULA WHO**"!



Mga bagong palaro na may naglalakihang papremyo. Kasiyahan at katatawanang hatid ng inyong mga bagong kapamilya sa pananghalian.

Ang saya, 'di ba?

50 YEARS

ABS

TELEV

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SIMULCAST SCHEDULE

MONDAYS thru FRIDAYS • 10am-7pm

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Morning Girls w/ Kris & Korina
Daniela
ABS-CBN's NEW Noontime Show
Altagracia
Cristina
Paloma
Romantica
Bey Blade
ETC (Mon-Wed-Fri)
Mission X (Tuesdays)
Gus Abelgas: Nag-uulat (Thursdays)
TV Patrol

SATURDAYS • 12nn-5:30pm

ABS-CBN's NEW Noontime Show
Cristina
Paloma
Romantica
Berks
Knowledge Power

SUNDAYS • 12nn-5:30pm

A.S.A.P.
Tabing Ilog
The Buzz

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mas marami nang ka-join sa balitaktakan...
at mas malawak na ang balitaan.

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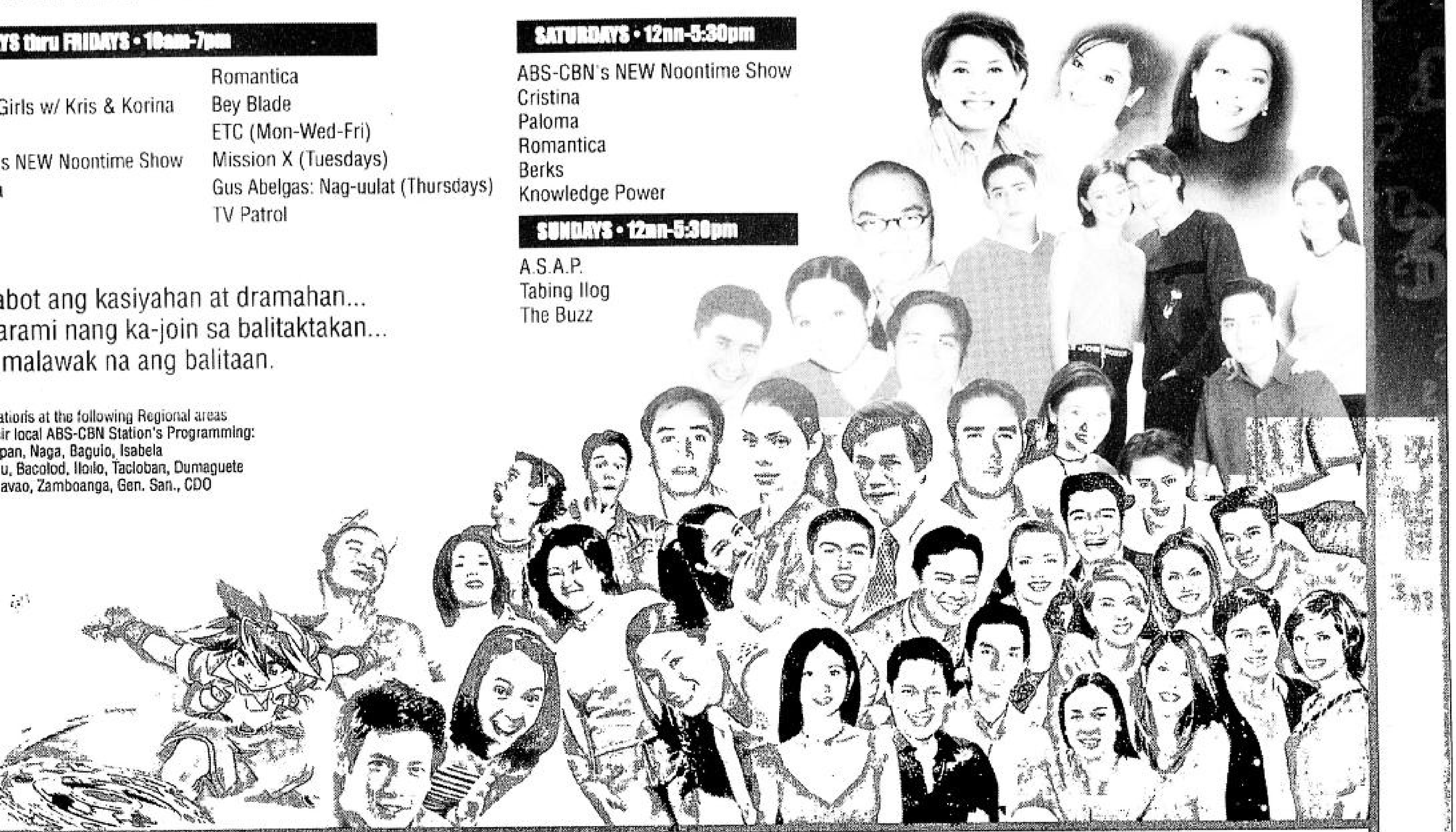
Visayas: Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Tacloban, Dumaguete
Mindanao: Davao, Zamboanga, Gen. San., CDO



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JIMMY NEUTRON, Sundays/6p
SPY TV, Sundays/730p

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SMASH HITS 2002 back-to-back w/
JAMIROQUAI IN VERONA ITALY, March 20/8p
ANY GIVEN SUNDAY, March 22/930p
BABAE SA BINTANA, March 29/930p

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STUDIO
23

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QC's Belmonte cheats death

By Alcuin Papa

QUEZON City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte yesterday narrowly escaped death when a crane accidentally dropped three large steel beams on his vehicle.

According to a Central Police District report, Belmonte was on board his Nissan Terrano (WET-128), travelling on E. Rodriguez Avenue toward Cubao at around 1 a.m. when the accident occurred.

Belmonte, who was with his driver Pepito Pascua, 53, and aide Erce Cantellep, said to have came from Araneta Avenue to attend the wake of the mother of Public Works Secretary and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chief Bayani Fernando.

When the vehicle reached a construction site on the corner of Judge Jimenez Street, the passengers were startled when they heard a loud crash on the roof of the vehicle.

The mayor was immediately taken to a hospital. He suffered minor cuts and bruises.

Elements of the Kamuning Police Station arrested three construction workers involved in the accident.

Consolacion disowns 'Winona'

THE WOMAN who was arrested for shoplifting on Monday is neither a college professor nor is she connected with La Consolacion College in Caloocan City, according to school officials.

Police said that when Eleonor Perez, 24, was caught stealing a bottle of perfume from a store at the Gotesco Grand Central Mall in Rizal Avenue Extension, Caloocan, she yielded a La Consolacion identification card.

But in a written statement to the Inquirer, La Consolacion officials said that Perez only taught in high school and that her services were terminated in March 2002.

"It is almost one year now since her employment with the school ended," said Sr. Francesca Montesa of La Consolacion. "It is not therefore ... proper that she be identified ... as a professor of this school."

Ces Drilon:

From page A23

da CR-V (with conduction sticker No. 85TZC), while she was exiting a gasoline station on Commonwealth Avenue at about 11:45 p.m. on Tuesday.

"He fled after the accident," Drilon told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "It was only through the help of a taxi driver who had witnessed the accident and taken down the car's plate number that I was able to track down Luarez."

She said she had to go to the Land Transportation Office (LTO) herself where she learned that the Mitsubishi Pajero (SEU 401) that hit her car was registered to the Napocor.

The Pajero, she added, was assigned to a Commission on Audit representative, who had Luarez as official driver.

Drilon maintained that when asked by a Quezon City fiscal, Luarez admitted that he had fallen asleep while he was driving the Napocor vehicle on Tuesday night.

A Napocor security officer turned Luarez over to the police after Drilon called up officials of the power firm and informed them of the accident, she said.

Drilon suffered a bruise on the forehead. Police had pegged the damage caused to her car at about P100,000.

Agnes Donato

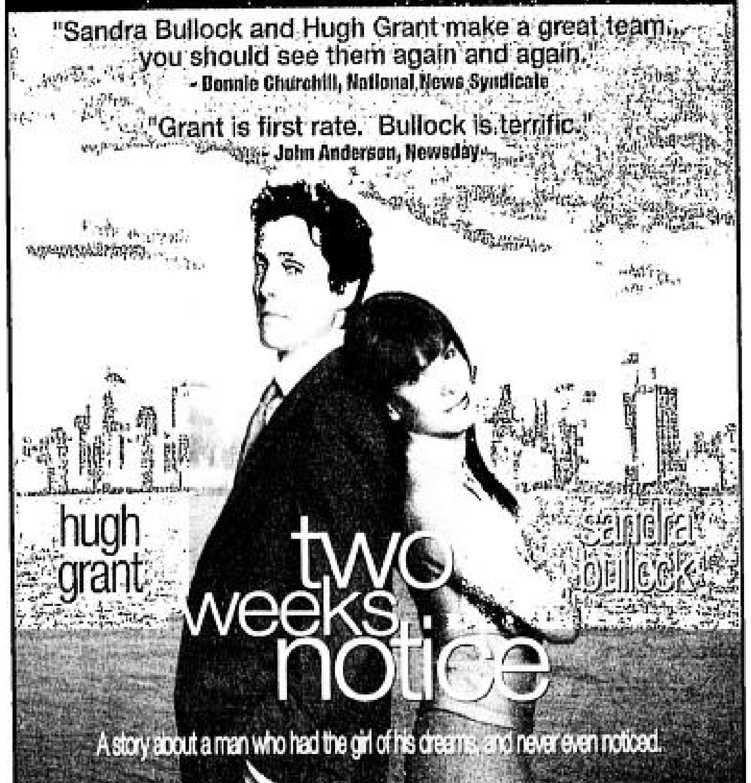
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.

"THIS IS THE SEASON'S MUST-SEE ROMANTIC COMEDY." SWEET, SEXY, SASSY FUN! SIT BACK AND WATCH THE SPARKS FLY."
-Bill Bregoli, WESTWOOD ONE

"Sandra Bullock and Hugh Grant make a great team, you should see them again and again."
- Donnie Churchill, National News Syndicate

"Grant is first rate. Bullock is terrific."
- John Anderson, Newsday



A story about a man who had the girl of his dreams, and never even noticed.

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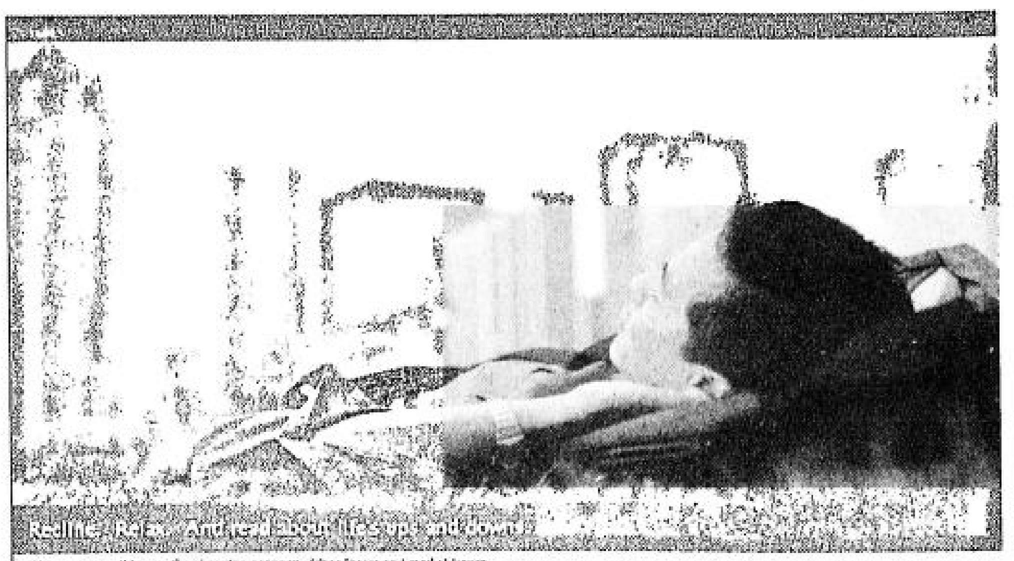
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1 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS	1 DAREDEVIL	1 SWEPT AWAY (EXCLUSIVE) 00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 DAREDEVIL 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15	THX 1 DAREDEVIL
2 HERO	2 THE EYE	2 DAREDEVIL 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 DAREDEVIL 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00, 11:25	2 DAREDEVIL
3 DAREDEVIL	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 DAREDEVIL 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	OGIE ALCASID: OA SA PUSO Feb. 21, 22, 28 & Mar. 1	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS 12:25, 2:45, 5:05 DAREDEVIL - 8:25, 10:50	3 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4 DAREDEVIL	4 ABANDON		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 HERO 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00	4 ABANDON
	5 TWO WEEKS NOTICE		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 TWO WEEKS NOTICE 12:5[illegible], 3:05, 5:15, 7:25, 9:35	5 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
	6 DAREDEVIL			
	7 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS			

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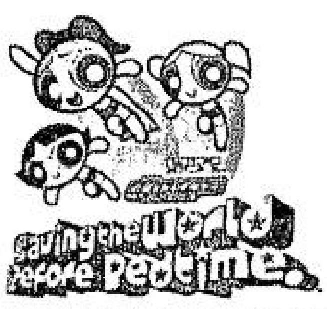
Feb 20 6pm
Feb 21 3pm 6pm
Feb 22 & 23 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Glorietta Activity Center

ALABANG
March 7 to 9
11am, 3pm, 6pm
Activity Center

CEBU
Feb 28 4pm, 6:30pm
Mar 1 11am, 3pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm
Mar 2 11:30am, 3pm, 6pm
Activity Center


saving the world before bedtime

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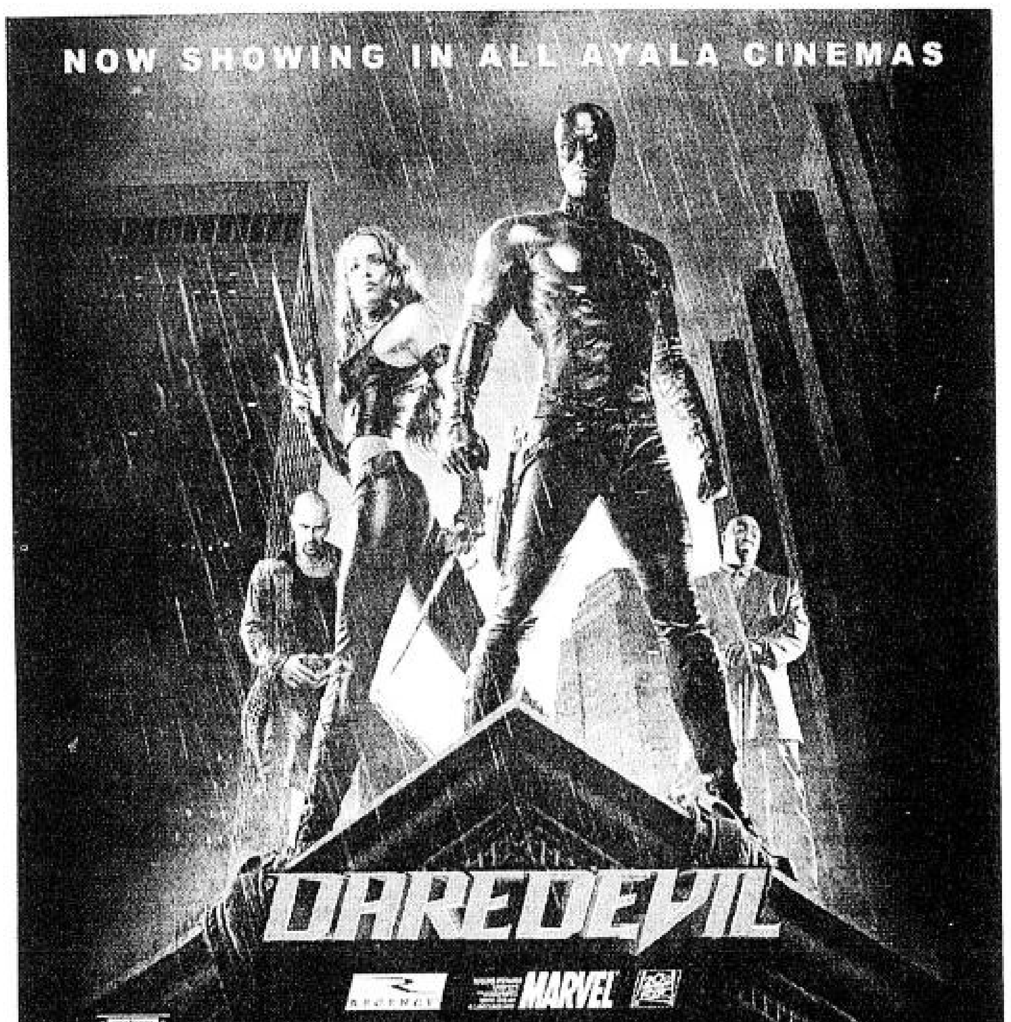

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6:30PM	New Short Works

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NOW SHOWING

Can GMA bring down crime rate?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the Philippine National Police (PNP) to bring down the incidence of street crime in Metro Manila. She gave the PNP one year to do that.

She could even have given the police a much shorter period—say, two months—within which to comply with her order.

The police can bring down the crime rate faster than one can say, *mgabugokkayokailangangibabanyoangkrimenkundilagotkayosa-akin.*

You see, the police work best under pressure-from their superiors and the public.

* * *

If Davao City Mayor Rudy Duterte has been able to rid the city of street criminals-- such as drug pushers, pickpockets, cellphone or bag snatchers and petty robbers-there's no reason why the police and mayors in Metro Manila cannot do the same.

Duterte's formula is simple. He identifies all the street punks in his radio program and tells them to either leave the city or mend their ways.

The hardheaded criminals become themselves crime victims. Their bodies are found sprawled dead in places where they used to ply their nefarious trade.

* * *

Who killed them?

The law-abiding citizens of Davao City don't care. They even rejoice over their deaths.

Only human rights advocates are not happy. But they are very few.

As for Duterte, there's no proof to link him to the killings of the recidivists. Can you point an accusing finger at someone who just admonishes criminals to reform?

* * *

But if the PNP leadership is squeamish over the "Duterte Formula" (which, I'm quite sure, it is not) and wants to show the citizenry that it upholds the human and constitutional rights even of criminals, it can take the more expensive and cumbersome way.

How? By fielding more uniformed policemen in the streets. Get those cops who are sitting on their butts doing office work to patrol every nook and cranny of the metropolis.

The more uniformed cops walking around in pairs, the less crime there will be.

The presence of uniformed policemen deters crime.

* * *

But given the attitude of most policemen in Metro Manila toward their work, fielding uniformed policemen in the streets will just be a temporary solution. After a while, cops will no longer go on patrols.

Most cops are so lazy that walking, to them, is already a big task. Look around you-do you see cops who don't have bulging tummies?

Who will monitor those cops on patrol? The moment those cops leave their stations, they will take off their uniforms and either go home to their mistresses or pass the time away drinking with their buddies.

Worse, some of them will get involved in crimes themselves. If you don't know this, you haven't been reading the newspapers or watching the TV network news.

* * *

If you don't believe what I say about cops in the metropolis not wanting to go on patrol, why was it that during the administration of President Erap, uniformed Marines were employed to patrol the malls?

The problem is not the lack of policemen, but the cops' lack of dedication toward their job.

You need a whip to make them move.

* * *

I am not generalizing, but the provincial policemen are more dedicated in their work than their comrades in Metro Manila.

I make sorties into the provinces regularly and I have observed that uniformed cops patrolling the streets are a common sight. I have also observed that provincial cops are more courteous to the citizenry.

I am reminded of retired Lt. Gen. Cesar Nazareno, then chief of the Philippine Constabulary and Integrated National Police (INP), who had the same observation.

"Bakit mas magagalang at matitino ang mga pulis at PC sa probinsiya kaysa sa Metro Manila (Why are the policemen and PC soldiers in the provinces more respectful and better behaved than the ones in Metro Manila)?" he told me in a conversation.

* * *

Cooch Lynch, a New Zealander who coaches polo in Manila, should be reminded that women in this country are not horses that he can whip and cuss at his whim.

Lynch, hired by a businessman to play polo with him, cursed and nearly slapped a Filipina in front of her friends and other polo players during a small party at BF-Paranaque polo field.

"F**k you, b***h," Lynch said, at the same time raising his hand, an act of slapping the woman's face. He was restrained by other guests.

* * *

The reason for the New Zealander's outburst was jealousy.

Word had reached Lynch that his girlfriend, another Filipina, was seeing another polo player through the woman that he tried to slap.

* * *

Stick to the facts, NPD chief says

By Tina Santos and Philip Tubeza

NORTHERN Police District Office director Marcelino Franco Jr. yesterday downplayed the results of the investigation of Western Police District officials virtually clearing WPD policeman PO3 Pio San Pedro of the charges of kidnapping.

"I don't know how they came up with that," Franco said. "As far as I'm concerned, I told (Valenzuela City police chief) Supt. Jose Marcelo to stick to the facts and just let the court decide."

Franco explained that the prosecutors would not recommend the filing of kidnapping charges against San Pedro and his alleged cohort, Ireneo San Andres, had they not found sufficient basis.

"The victim, Chinese Lei Niu, came to us and filed a complaint against San Pedro," Franco said. "(Lei) said, though he was not handcuffed, blindfolded or anything, he was forced to go with (San Pedro) because the suspect threatened to shoot (Lei) if he would attempt to escape. I think that says it all."

But Manila investigators said when San Pedro and San Andres were arrested, policemen found no gun in San Pedro's possession.

WPD officials on Thursday conducted an investigation of the case and concluded that they found evidence that "seem sufficient to negate the charge of kidnapping against San Pedro."

Also, two teachers from the school of San Pedro's daughter yesterday came forward yesterday to vouch for San Pedro.

Teachers Ruby D. Caliva and Perlita H. Miguel said in a sworn statement that Lei introduced himself as a friend of San Pedro when he went to the Sta. Peregrina Elementary School in Pulilan, Bulacan, accompanied by San Pedro's 10-year-old daughter.

They said they voluntarily made the statement "to emphasize that Niu was not kidnapped."

The advance screening of "ASTERIX & OBELIX VS. CAESAR" scheduled for today, SM MEGAMALL cinema 10 is postponed for March 23, 2003, 6:00 p.m. at the SM Megamall cinema 10. For ticket inquiries and other concerns, please call Chrisfam Foundation Inc., at 3667650 & 3667688, look for Janet and QC Phoenix Lions Club at 4174875 and look for Mr. Cesar Chan.

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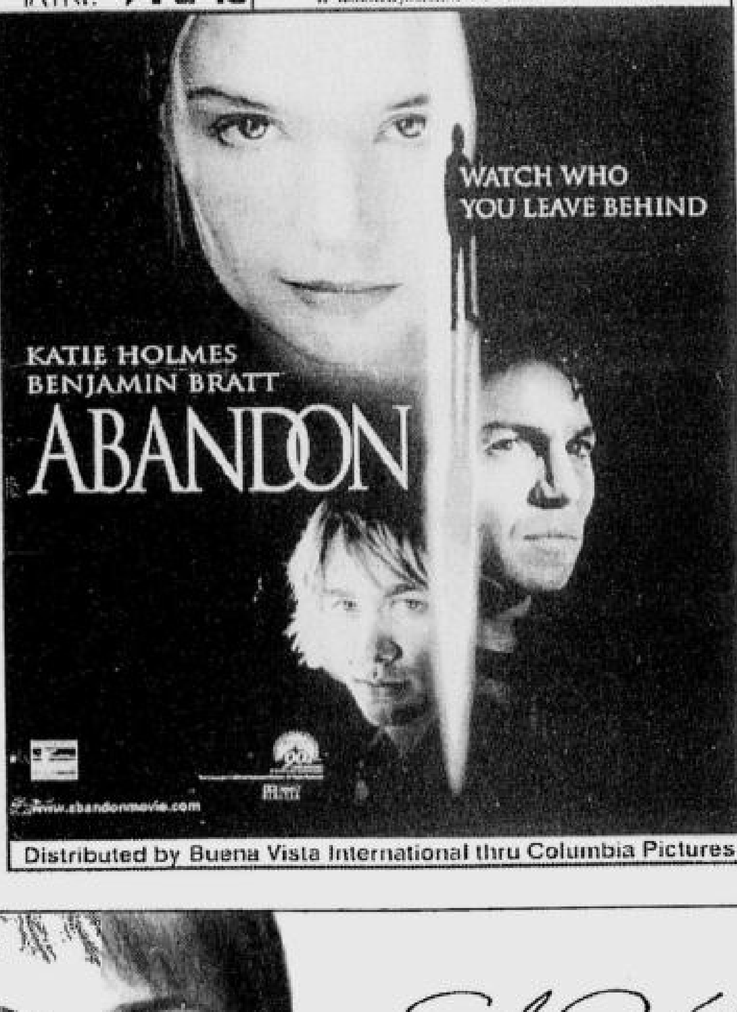

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Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	AB NORMAL
Ali 2	AMAZON
Ali 3	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
Ali 4	DAREDEVIL
Ali 5	DAREDEVIL
Ali 6	THEY
Ali 7	ABANDON

FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	TOMAGAN
Farmers 2	DAREDEVIL

ARANETA COLISEUM	
FEB 22 & 28	MARTIN & POPS CONCERT
FEB 23	PBA OPENING GAMES
MARCH 1	JOLINA MANIA CONCERT

ELEPHANT WORLD	
FEB 22	10 AM / 3 PM / 5 PM
FEB 23	3 PM / 5 PM
FEB 25	10 AM

THEATER
MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	KAPAG BUMAYO PALAY / UNFAITHFUL CONCUBINE
ODEON	DAREDEVIL
ODEON-2	MALDITA / STRIP SHOW
ROBEN	BUKANG BIBIG
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	HALLOWEEN / ONE WRONG TURN

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	TOMAGAN
CORONET B	CHANGING LANES / THE WILD SIDE
QUEZON-1	BUKANG BIBIG
REMAR	DAREDEVIL
REMAR-2	BUKANG BIBIG

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	AB NORMAL
B	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
CINEMA-2	DAREDEVIL

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	TOMAGAN
CINEMA-2	SUKDULAN
CINEMA-3	MAGNIFICO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DAREDEVIL
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HERO
CINEMA-6	BUKANG BIBIG
CINEMA-7	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
CINEMA-8	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DEREDEVIL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DAREDEVIL
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
CINEMA-12	ABANDON
CINEMA-14	AMAZON
CINEMA-15	THEY

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LANES

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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and LORNA TOLENTINO
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ALLISON VII GONZALES
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ISABELLA DE LEON
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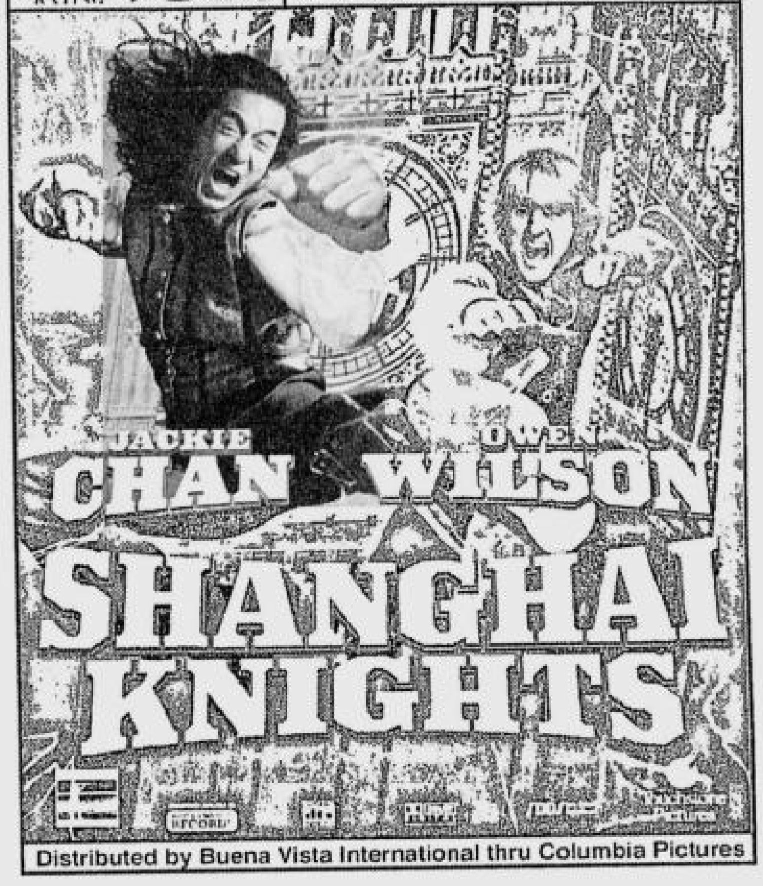

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BUSINESS

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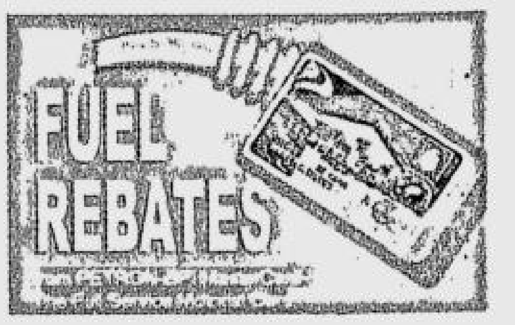

Matsushita sets ₱1.75-B RP expansion

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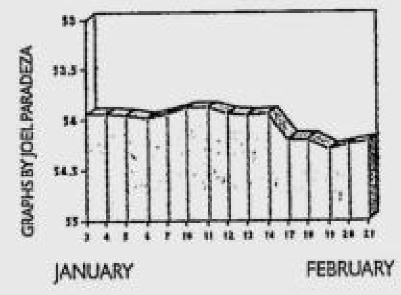

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As of 5 p.m., Feb. 21, 2003

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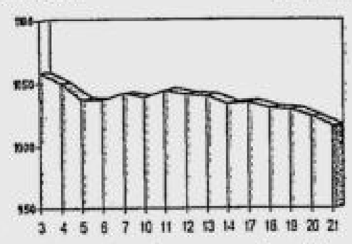
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb.21, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks down despite peso rebound

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS closed lower for the fourth straight session yesterday despite the peso's recovery as investors remained cautious on worries over the Iraq crisis and the pending amendments to the country's dirty money law.

Only the mining sector posted gains among the sectoral sub-indices, largely due to buying in gold-related stocks seen as safe haven with the possible war in the Middle East.

A global dirty money watchdog has given the country a reprieve from sanctions but the Philippines has only until March 15 to come up with an acceptable version of its anti-money laundering act (Amla).

The Philippine composite index lost 7.53 points or 0.74 percent at 1,015.70 points. It had lost 1.74 percent for the week and was down 0.27 percent so far this year.

Turnover narrowed to P124.66 million from P136.15 million. Losers outpaced gainers, 27 to 15, with 31 issues unchanged. *Reuters*

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

JAPANESE consumer electronics giant Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd. will invest P1.75 billion over the next five years to manufacture DVD multi-disk drives in its plant at the Carmelray Industrial Park in Laguna.

The DVD multi-disk drives—which can read, write and erase data on re-writable CDs and DVDs for notebook and desktop computers—would be the first of its kind in the world, according to Hiroshi Nishimura, president of Kyushu Matsushita Electric Corp. (KMEC), Matsushita's computer manufacturing arm.

This has made the project eligible for pioneer incentives from the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza), which would give it a minimum income tax holiday of eight years on top of tax- and duty-free perks.

Under the Investment Priorities Plan, a project is considered new if it is entirely distinct from the proponent's existing business in terms of final product, production process, machinery and raw materials used.

KMEC has invested a total of P350 million since it established its factory to produce slim CD-R/RW drives and slim DVD Combination drives at Carmelray in October 2000.

KMEC will lease a 1,786-square meter factory from JTCI Development (Philippines) Corp. that would be separate from its existing CD-R/RW Drive and DVD Combination Drive facility.

KMEC will pump in P847.5 million to buy equipment (P547.5 million from advances from Matsushita Japan) and raise the initial working capital (P300 million from internally generated funds) in its first year of operation. It will invest another P899 million in the next four years to bring production to full capacity.

The project, which will start operations this month, is expected to produce an annual average of 1.38 million DVD drives over the next five years with an average export turnover of P4.69 billion a year. All of the factory's output would be shipped out for export. KMEC plans to sell its DVD drives for $100 each in the first year to $50 in the fifth year.

The new project is the latest investment of Matsushita in the Philippines following its decision to make the country its global production hub for room air-conditioners. Matsushita, which markets its products under the Panasonic and National brands, produces color televisions, refrigerators, copiers, printers, closed-circuit video equipment and mobile phones from the Philippines for both domestic and overseas sales.

Gov't eyes privatization of Philpost this year

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance yesterday said it was seriously planning to sell this year its equity and assets in Philippine Postal Corp., the sole operator of the country's postal system.

The DOF is looking for financial advisers and technical consultants as part of its preparation to sell Philpost as well as to develop four pieces of real estate in Japan.

Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto said that more than 10 investment banks have expressed interest to act as the government's financial adviser in the privatization of Philpost this year.

"We plan to auction Philpost this year and we would like to determine the value of the company, that is why we are hiring a financial advisor," Recto said.

The plan to sell Philpost was brought up during the Estrada administration and the sale during that time was estimated to give the government about P1 billion in proceeds.

Recto said it was up to the financial adviser to determine the true value of the postal firm, which employs 17,000 and had been sustaining losses over the last three years.

He said the finance department was also looking for consultants that would help draw the terms of reference in developing the Japan property with a joint venture partner.

The inter-agency Privatization Committee discussed the guidelines of divesting the Philippine real estate assets in the United States during yesterday's meeting.

In its latest inventory, the DOF found out that the government owned seven pieces of real estate in the United States that it could sell starting this year to earn about $30 million or P1.6 billion.

Recto said the Philippines has two pieces of property in New York and one each in Washington, San Francisco, Chicago, Houston, and Seattle.

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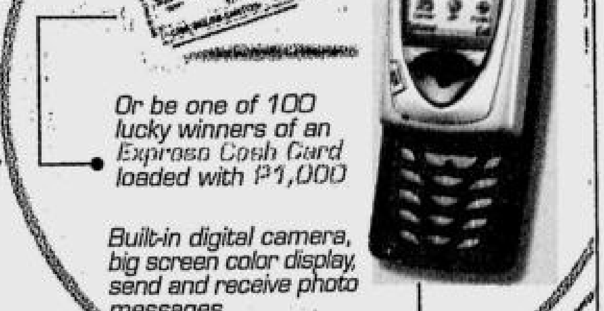

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Smart's subscriber base reaches 8.9 million

By Abigail L. Ho

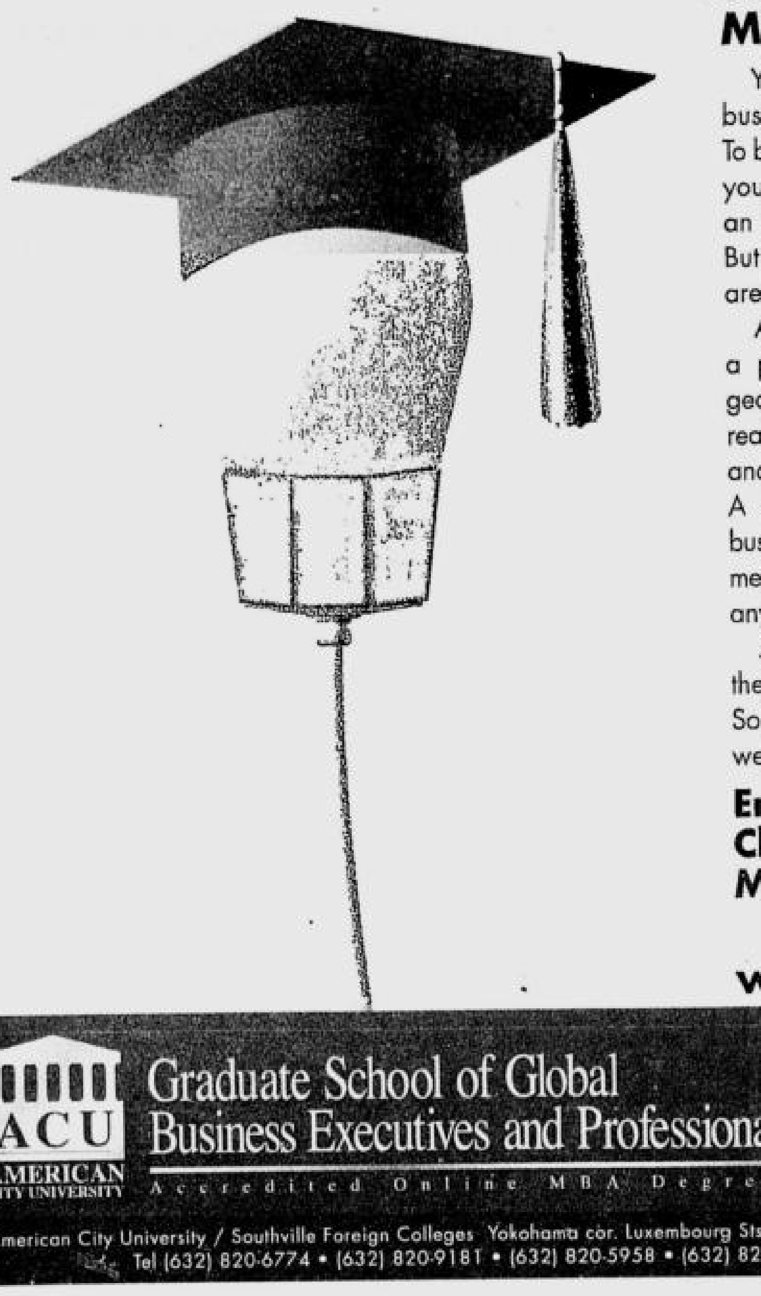
CELLULAR service provider Smart Communications Inc. continued to show strong growth as its subscriber base expanded to 8.9 million over the past five months.

Smart's legal, external and carrier relations head Rogelio Quevedo said in an interview that subscribers on Smart's network included those of sister firm Pilipino Telephone Corp.'s Talk N' Text global system for mobile communications (GSM) subscribers.

As of end-September last year, Smart had almost 8 million subscribers, 43 percent higher than in the same period in 2001.

Smart's strong performance during the first three quarters of 2002 boosted parent firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s revenues by 10 percent to P58.9 billion from year-ago earnings of P36.9 billion.

James Lago of Westlink Global Equities said Smart, like fierce rival Globe Telecom Inc., would continue to post growth despite the possibility of revenues hitting a plateau sometime in the future because of the Filipinos' continued love affair with their mobile phones.



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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, February 21, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.20 4.2	4.2	4.2	1,000	
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.00	16.25	16	16	212,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	32.50	32.5	32.5	32.5	290,800
Citystate Savings Bank	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	2,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.00	27	26.5	26.5	260,900
Philippine National Bank	24.50	24.5	24.5	24.5	100
Union Bank of the Phil.	16.50	16.5	16.5	16.5	14,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	.7400	.750.74	0.75	1,440,000	
Filipino Fund Inc	.3100	.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	.7100	.71	0.71	0.71	260,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	955 0	955	945	945	560
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	8,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	.4100	.42	0.37	0.37	7,010,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	535.0	535	530	530	6,110
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	.1500	.15	0.15	0.15	500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	10,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	.1800	.19	0.18	0.18	230,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	290.0	290	287.5	287.5	68,190
Philweb Corp.	.0100	.011	0.01	0.011	4,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	8.40	8.5	8.4	8.5	70,000
Manila Electric Co. B	12.25	12.75	12.25	12.5	788,400
Petron Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.64	1.64	1,410,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.60	1.6	1.6	1.6	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	.9900	.99	0.99	0.99	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	219,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	357,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.25	16.25	15.75	16	137,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.50	58	57.5	58	489,600
San Miguel Corp. B	65.50	65.5	65.5	65.5	28,100
Vitarich Corp.	.3000	.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	.3400	.34	0.34	0.34	40,000
Ayala Corp.	4.20	4.2	4.15	4.2	114,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.36	2.4	2.36	2.4	374,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	.1700	.17	0.16	0.16	2,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	.5800	.6	0.58	0.6	140,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	.0050	.005	0.005	0.005	11,000,000
ATN Holdings, Inc.	2.20	2.2	2	2.2	46,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	.1500	.16	0.15	0.16	80,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.00	10	10	10	108,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	.1200	.12	0.115	0.12	920,000
Crown Equities Inc.	.1100	.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	8.50	8.5	8.5	8.5	170,000
Ionics Inc.	.7000	.7	0.7	0.7	70,000
Megaworld Corp.	.5800	.58	0.58	0.58	1,800,000
Music Corp.	.1800	.18	0.175	0.18	220,000
Philread Holdings Corp.	3.10	3.1	3.1	3.1	175,000
Roxas Holdings, Inc.	.9500	.95	0.95	0.95	90,000
Tanduay Holdings, Inc.	3.10	3.1	3.1	3.1	15,000
Waterfront Phils., Inc.	.3400	.34	0.34	0.34	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat, Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	5,000
SPI Technologies, Inc.	14.75	14.75	14.25	14.5	221,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	.2900	.29	0.28	0.28	510,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	.3000	.3	0.29	0.3	310,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	.4000	.42	0.4	0.42	110,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	12.00	12	12	12	200,000
Jollibee Warrants	15.75 15.75	15.5	15.5	21,200	
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.00	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.00	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	.0020	.002	0.002	0.002	4,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.70	4.7	4.6	4.6	1,150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.1200	.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	.9000	.9	0.9	0.9	900,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	13,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	.0220	.022	0.022	0.022	1,000,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	.0700	.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.20	5.2	5.2	5.2	2,102,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	.1900	.19	0.19	0.19	1,010,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	.2100	.22	0.21	0.215	820,000
Omico Corp.	.0020	.002	0.002	0.002	20,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	.0120 .012	0.012	0.012	900,000	
Philex Mining Corp. A	.2500	.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	.2800	.28	0.28	0.28	250,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	.0022 .0022	0.0022	0.002210,000,000		

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	2,581,660	21,847,325.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	38,854,303	85,480,317.00
PRO	5,465,000	17,135,010.00
Mining	23,030,000	501,850.0
OIL	10,000,000	22,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	79,930,963	124,986,502.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	342.42	DOWN 6.77
Comm'l & Ind'l	,480.76	DOWN 4.25
PRO	438.47	DOWN 3.72
Mining	,192.28	UP 1.36
OIL	1.01	DOWN 0.03
All Shares Index	634.85	DOWN 4.08
Composite	,015.70	DOWN 7.53

NO. OF ADVANCES: 15, NO. OF DECLINES: 27, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 73, NO. OF TRADES: 949

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of directors of **Cosmos Bottling Corp.** approved the decrease of the company's capital stock from P2.8 billion to P1.4 billion. This is for approval of stockholders' of record as of March 7 at the special stockholders' meeting on April 7.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Savings Bank will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 24 and the record date was fixed on March 7. The board of directors also accepted the resignation of John K.C. Ng as director and appointed Pompeyo Claveria as corporate compliance officer.

* * *

SM Prime Holdings Inc. disclosed that the company is ranked no. 1 in corporate governance in the Asset Magazine's December 2002 issue.

* * *

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Co. confirmed that the company and Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. will be undertaking a joint exploration of mineral deposits within the Leyte Geothermal Reservation.

* * *

TRANS-ASIA Oil & Energy Development Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 23 at 2:30 p.m. at the Palm Grove Restaurant, Rockwell Center, Makati. Record date is set on March 24. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

February 21, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.924471	1.000000	54.312000
Japan	Yen	0.007815	0.008454	0.459200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.473421	1.593800	86.562500
Hongkong	Dollar	0.118536	0.128220	6.963900
Switzerland	Franc	0.681060	0.736703	40.011800
Canada	Dollar	0.614185	0.664364	36.082900
Singapore	Dollar	0.530239	0.573559	31.151100
Australia	Dollar	0.552847	0.598015	32.479400
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.452242	2.652590	144.067500
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.246532	0.266674	14.483600
Brunei	Dollar	0.528722	0.571919	31.062100
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000113	0.006100
Thailand	Baht	0.021570	0.023332	1.267200
UAE	Dirham	0.251721	0.272287	14.788500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.081700	58.749300
Argentina	Peso	0.287103	0.310559	16.867100
Brazil	Real	0.255238	0.276091	14.995100
Denmark	Kroner	0.134611	0.145609	7.908300
India	Rupee	0.019421	0.021008	1.141000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.243314	0.263193	14.294500
Mexico	New Peso	0.084412	0.091308	4.959100
New Zealand	Dollar	0.515313	0.557414	30.274300
Norway	Kroner	0.133214	0.144098	7.826300
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016022	0.017331	0.941300
South Africa	Rand	0.114299	0.123637	6.715000
Korea	Won	0.000778	0.000842	0.045700
Sweden	Kroner	0.109630	0.118587	6.440700
Syria	Pound	0.022012	0.023810	1.293200
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.026657	0.028835	1.566100
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000580	0.000627	0.034100

CENTER FOR VALUE SHOPPING

₱500M earmarked for Greenhills redevelopment

By Elena R. Torrijos

ORTIGAS & Co. and its retail partners are setting aside this year P500 million to redevelop major parts of the 16-hectare Greenhills Shopping Center.

"We want to strengthen the position of Greenhills as the center for value shopping and wholesome entertainment in Metro Manila," Ortigas & Co. chief operating officer Rex Drilon II said.

The property group's major projects include the construction of The Promenade, a P150-million project involving the development of part of the parking space in front of the Greenhills cinemas into a strip of restaurants, bars and retail stores similar to the Malate strip. This phase is expected to be completed by December this year and, phase II, which includes the construction of two more cinemas, was expected to be done by the middle of next year. The project will be financed by anchor tenant Priscilla Florentino, who is currently leasing the entire Shoppesville portion of the commercial center.

Drilon also disclosed that the group would spend P140 million for a three-level steel and cement parking building with retail spaces on the ground floor level.

Other projects for 2003 by Ortigas and its anchor tenants are:

- establishment of a high-end Jewelry Exchange, P25 million
- redevelopment of Unimart, P20 million,
- completion of the renovation of Virra Mall, P50 million,
- installation of a central air-conditioning system in the Center Mall, P35 million,
- installation of a 100-percent power backup, fire safety and security systems, P27 million

Drilon said that, over the next 20 to 25 years, Ortigas & Co. and some partners would likely spend P10 billion to P20 billion to re-develop the 16-hectare Greenhills Shopping Center area into a world-class retail and residential facility.

In line with this, Drilon said, the company has already invited five architectural groups to submit concept proposals based on which the property firm would finalize a master development plan.

The five groups—Palafox Associates with SOM, London-based Robert Matthew and Johnson Marshall, Cosculluela and Cadiz, RTKL International Ltd. and Wimbley Alison Tom and Go—were awaiting the parameters that the Ortigas-owned property developer would set for the development.

Ortigas & Co. general manager Joey Santos said that Ortigas & Co. wanted to transform the existing shopping center into a mixused facility featuring high-rise residential buildings and increase the current center's 100,000 sq.m. space for shopping.

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Execs expect PNB to break even this year

By Clarissa S. Batino

GOVERNMENT representatives to the Philippine National Bank board have assured the finance department that the bank's five-year rehabilitation program that started in May last year was on track and that PNB would likely be out of the red this year.

PNB chair Francisco Dizon and directors Norberto Nazareno and Flor Tariela met with Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto Thursday to give the government an update on the development in PNB and the state of the government's investment in the bank.

Dizon said the Department of Finance was told of the favorable prospect of breaking even this year based on current trends. "However, we still have to worry about the impact of the Middle East conflict as well as the possibility of rising interest rates."

In a memorandum of agreement forged on May 3, 2002, the government and Lucio Tan agreed to rehabilitate the bank during a five-year period. At the end of the rehabilitation period, both parties will be free to sell their shares.

The rehabilitation kicked off with the conversion of PNB's P7.8 billion debts into government equity and consequently raising state ownership in the bank to 44.95 percent or at par with that of Tan, who agreed to dilute his holdings from 67 percent to 44.95 percent.

The bank has P6.1 billion worth of debts it must settle within a 10-year period unless the government would agree to convert the amount into equity.

Camacho noted that instead of a projected net loss of P3 billion in 2002, the bank sustained losses of only P1.9 billion including its loan loss provisions of about P600 million. The bank lost P4.1 billion in 2001.

"We are pleased with the developments in PNB which show that the rehabilitation is happening at a faster pace," said the finance chief.

Camacho said the PNB directors also updated him of the planned reduction in the bank's non-performing loans and seized assets.

Nestlé shuts down Bulacan noodle factory

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NESTLÉ Philippines Inc. has shut down its Maggi noodle factory in Pulilan, Bulacan, the second plant that the subsidiary of the world's largest food company has closed in the Philippines since it pulled the plug on its Alabang factory in April 2001.

In its reply to the INQUIRER's query, Nestlé Philippines spokesman Pedro N. Dy-Liacco Jr. said the company had decided to stop operations in the Pulilan factory effective Feb. 17. The Pulilan factory, located on a 4.7-hectare property in Bulacan, started operations in 1993.

Although Dy-Liacco did not reveal the exact reason for the noodle factory's closure, he hinted of the need to maintain competitiveness in the noodles category which was now driven by price brands—such as Payless and Lucky Me.

Dy-Liacco also doused persistent rumors that Nestlé would close more plants in the country especially with the onset of the Asean Free Trade Area where a multinational company with a factory in Thailand or Indonesia can now sell the products to the Philippines at practically zero duties.

"There are no such plans, however, future developments are of course dependent on factors such as the business environment," Dy-Liacco said. "Our objective is not to close factories. Our goal is to remain viable in a global and regional trading environment which is expected to become much more competitive in the years to come."

Dy-Liacco said Nestlé was expanding its Cagayan de Oro (filled milk), Cabuyao (infant nutrition) and Lipa (breakfast cereals) factories to achieve low cost operations and generate efficiencies that would enable the company to be competitive in the export market.

The closure is expected to affect 248 employees of which 83 percent are rank and file. Nestlé management has offered the displaced employees jobs in the company's other plants. Nestlé's other plants are in Cabuyao, Laguna; Cagayan de Oro; Lipa, Batangas; and Aurora Boulevard in Quezon City.

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang ● Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Overcoming the odds of Down syndrome

Text and photo by Tessa R. Salazar

ANTONIO Pasia is a doting father to 12-year-old Vicky Lou.

EVERYTHING went well when Vicky Lou Pasia, youngest daughter of Antonio and Dotty Pasia, was born on Feb. 8, 1991. Her vital signs were good.

The day after, the family pediatrician checked the baby. He had bad news: Vicky had Down syndrome.

A geneticist then talked to the Pasia couple to explain what Down syndrome is, but they wanted more information. The Pasias searched for materials regarding the condition.

"We were so hungry for information," Antonio narrated. "The information we got from encyclopedias and medical references were horror stories that painted a completely negative picture of these children."

For motivation and emotional support, they turned to other parents whose children also had Down syndrome. In 1992, they formed a group which met regularly so parent-members could exchange notes. The Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines was born.

Today, Vicky Pasia is a bubbly 12-year-old girl who attends the Stepping Stone Learning and Resource Center at the Rockwell Compound in Makati City.

Turning grief into hope

Antonio said grief is the initial reaction of parents who learn their child has Down syndrome. Parents imagine a bleak future for their child.

The DSAP, however, believes parents' feelings of disappointment, sorrow, fear, guilt, confusion, anger and denial about their children's condition can be replaced with positive attitudes of warmth, love, understanding and hope.

But knowledge must first replace ignorance. Parent-members of the DSAP are required to face the facts and know their adversary.

The group arranges a meeting between new members and regular members, either individually or during support group meetings. It refers new members to medical specialists or give advice on early intervention training.

The DSAP also maintains a library filled with articles about Down syndrome.

It has grown into a network with 1,350 members and branches in Cebu and Davao and support systems in Naga City, Trinidad Valley, Angeles City, Olongapo, Cabanatuan and Dagupan.

The DSAP, however, does not extend financial support to its members.

"As a parent-support group, we don't have access to additional funds that could be used for, say, heart operations," Antonio said, pointing out that 40 percent of children with Down syndrome also suffer from heart ailments.

Success stories

One of DSAP's staff members is Francis Ditching, 35. He has been working with the association for nine years now. He has Down syndrome.

When the INQUIRER visited the DSAP office, Francis talked amiably to this reporter, volunteering his personal information.

Francis files records, photocopies documents and does other clerical work for the DSAP.

Persons with Down syndrome have mild to moderate retardation. It is widely believed, however, that they are educable, although educators and researchers still do not know their full educational potential.

Children with Down syndrome, in fact, can be "mainstreamed" into regular academic classrooms. Some are integrated into specific courses, while others are fully integrated into a class.

Antonio said some children with Down syndrome even excel in school.

Sam Golez, a 9-year-old Grade 2 student at St. Scholastica's College, gets grades in the 90s, he said.

"Thank God for the sisters of St. Scholastica for opening up doors for her," Antonio said. "If only people have this kind of openness, we might be in for a surprise on what these children could do."

DSAP members dream of the day when companies will have employment opportunities for people with Down syndrome. By then, Vicky and her friends will be young adults who can offer their enthusiasm, reliability and dedication to their employers.

(You can call up the DSAP at 895-9642, 895-3606.)

Fast facts

DOWN syndrome is the most frequent genetic cause of mild to moderate mental retardation and associated medical problems. It occurs in one out of 800 live births, in all races and economic groups.

It was named after John Langdon Down, the first physician to describe the syndrome in 1866.

It is a chromosomal disorder caused by an error in cell division that results in the presence of an additional third chromosome 21, or "trisomy 21."

Occurrence

Most of the time, the occurrence of Down syndrome is due to a random event that occurred during formation of the reproductive cells, the ovum or sperm.

As far as we know, Down syndrome is not attributable to any behavioral activity of the parents or environmental factors.

The probability that another child with Down syndrome will be born in a subsequent pregnancy is about one percent, regardless of maternal age.

Maternal age

Researchers have established that the likelihood that a reproductive cell will contain an extra copy of chromosome 21 increases dramatically as a woman ages. Therefore, an older mother is more likely to have a baby with Down syndrome than a younger mother.

Many specialists recommend that women who become pregnant at age 35 or older undergo prenatal testing for Down syndrome.

Diagnosis

A newborn baby with Down syndrome often has physical features including a flat facial profile, an upward slant to the eye, a short neck, abnormally shaped ears, white spots on the iris of the eye, and a single, deep transverse crease on the palm of the hand.

However, a child with Down syndrome may not possess all of these features; some of these features can even be found in the general population.

To confirm the diagnosis, the doctor will request a blood test called a chromosomal karyotype.

A person with Down syndrome may be very healthy or may present unusual and demanding medical and social problems at virtually every stage of life. However, every person with Down syndrome is a unique individual and not all will develop all medical disorders associated with the condition.

Incidence of Down syndrome in relation to mother's age

Mother's Age	Incidence of Down Syndrome
Under 30	Less than 1 in 1,000
30	1 in 900
35	1 in 400
36	1 in 300
37	1 in 230
38	1 in 180
39	1 in 135
40	1 in 105
42	1 in 60
44	1 in 35
46	1 in 20
48	1 in 16
49	1 in 12

SOURCE: HOOK,E.G., LINDSJO,A. DOWN SYNDROME IN LIVE BIRTHS BY SINGLE YEAR MATERNAL AGE

INFOGRAPHICS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Medical disorders

During the first days and months of life, some disorders may be immediately diagnosed. Congenital hypothyroidism occurs slightly more frequently in babies with Down syndrome. Hearing loss, congenital heart disease and vision disorders are more prevalent among those with Down syndrome.

Retardation

Most people with Down syndrome have IQ's that fall in the mild to moderate range of retardation. Some are so mildly affected that they live independently and are gainfully employed.

Cure

Researchers have identified the genes that cause the characteristics of Down syndrome. They are working to further develop mouse models to enhance their basic understanding of Down syndrome and facilitate the development of effective interventions and treatment strategies.

Source: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Arithmetricks; Shanghai's magnetic train

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

ASIDE from impressing your friends, fast (especially mental) mathematics is useful in a variety of situations—when quickly calculating a waiter's tip, for instance. I have discussed some useful computational shortcuts in this column from time to time.

A generous reader, Numeriano Rafanan of Villa Aurora, Mabolo in Cebu City, shares two tricks—one on multiplying two two-digit numbers and the other on squaring a number.

You can use this trick to multiply a two-digit number by another two-digit number, where the tens digits are the same, and the units digits sum to 10.

Let us look at 42 x 48.

First, multiply the unit digits whose sum is 10: 2 x 8 is 16.

Then take the (common) tens digit (which is 4), add one to it (making it 5), and multiply the result by the original tens digit again (making it 20).

This is what we did: 4 + 1 is 5. Then 5 x 4 is 20.

So far we have two answers, 16 and 20. Put 20 in front and 16 at the end to get the product of 42 and 48: 2,016.

Another example: 83 x 87.

First multiply the unit digits: 3 x 7 is 21.

The common tens digit is 8. Add one to make 9. Then multiply by 8: 72. The final answer is 7,221.

With this trick, we get 25 x 25 is 625; 39 x 31 is 1,209; 56 x 54 is 3,024; 19 x 11 is 209.

Squaring numbers

Another shortcut can be used when squaring a two-digit number (multiplying a number by itself).

What is 16 x 16?

First, add (or subtract) the nearest single digit to make the number end in 0. In this case, 16 + 4 = 20.

Second, subtract (or add) the digit you used above from 16. So 16 - 4 is 12.

Third, multiply the two new numbers: 20 x 12 is 240.

Fourth, add this to the square of the single digit used in the first two steps. The square of 4 is 16. Add 240 to 16 to get 256, which is the answer we want.

Another example: What is the square of 41?

First, subtract 1 to get 40. Then add 1 to get 42. Multiply 40 and 42 to get 1,680. Then add the square of 1 (which is 1) to get 1,681.

Rafanan concludes, "Can squaring a 2-digit number be this easy? With this method and a little practice, it can!"

***

Three years ago I wrote about magnetic trains (Sep. 30, 2000). Dr. Geronimo V. Manahan, president of Pros (Planning Resources and Operations Systems), responds, "Our company is doing an R & D on guided vehicles generically called the Personal Rapid Transit system. Engineer William Godinez is in charge of the project."

He sends additional information on magnetic-levitation (maglev) trains.

A maglev train floats in the air, a centimeter above the tracks, propelled by magnets in the guide track, all done without friction.

The first commercial maglev ran in Birmingham, England but was closed down in the last decade due to maintenance problems. Germany cancelled plans last year for a Berlin-Hamburg line because it was considered economically and environmentally harmful.

Maglevs are alleged to consume a lot of electricity, but do not run faster than other high-speed trains, such as France's TGV.

Levitating train

But the dream of a levitating train has not been abandoned. Now it is Shanghai's turn.

Last month, a maglev train ferried passengers between the financial district and the new airport at speeds of 400 kph, completing the 30-km journey in less than 10 minutes. Two German companies, Siemens and ThyssenKrupp, are responsible for the trains and stations and much of the cost to showcase this technology.

According to the International Herald Tribune, "The train project is the latest ultra-modern ornament to Pudong, the showcase development zone east of the muddy Huangpu River and the old center of Shanghai, which was built by foreigners before World War II.

"The city has already unveiled a 'people mover' that will carry pedestrians through a tunnel under the river. And Pudong has a collection of modern office towers and a new hotel, the Grand Hyatt Shanghai, atop China's tallest building, with a 30-story circular atrium."

With all these wonders, I cannot wait to visit Shanghai.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Is it the genes or the cell phone?

DISCOVER

Massie K. Santos

HERE'S a fun experiment to try in your own neighborhood, assuming you're willing to run the risk of being called a pervert, a voyeur, or a freak.

The materials you'll need are simple: a good view of the action, and a pen and paper.

Here's what you'll have to do: find a couple, who are holding nothing except maybe each other, kissing on the lips. Write down which way their heads tilt while they kiss. If they kiss more than once, record only the first kiss.

This may be a little tricky. After all, how many people walk around without a bag or a cell phone or something in their hands all the time? Still, it is important that the couples hold nothing so that results of the study won't be affected by couples who can't turn off their cell phones long enough or move their bags out of the way to kiss their significant others.

Now, take a look at the results and see how many people turned their heads to the left and how many turned their heads to the right.

'Right' kissers

According to Onur Güntürkün, a psychologist with the Ruhr-Universität-Bochum in Germany who came up with the study I've just described, for every person who tilts his head to the left to kiss, two people tilt their heads to the right.

Güntürkün began researching the topic entirely by accident; every paper he'd ever published was about bird behavior. The story goes that one day, while he was stranded at an airport, he started observing people who arrived and departed with each flight. Eventually, he began looking for couples aged 13-70 kissing at parks, beaches, railroad stations and airports in countries like Germany, Turkey and the United States to see which way their heads tilted.

"I tried to be as discreet as possible," he said recently of his research. "As soon as they had kissed, I walked away."

Still, his study yielded only 124 viable kisses, and two-thirds of those kisses were by right-tilters. Because he didn't say how long it took him to record those 124 kisses, I can't comment on whether or not there were too many people out there kissing while holding on to something other than their loved ones.

Preference since birth

I also find myself unable to give an informed opinion of the next part of his study, which is that this preference for tilting the head to one side or the other has been with us since birth.

As Güntürkün never got to know the kissers he observed, he couldn't say for sure that the teenage couple at the Turkish beach, for example, had found it more natural to tilt their heads to the left while the elderly couple in Germany had always leaned to the right when they said good night.

If you're going to try this study on your own, it may be of interest whether you know the people involved and what their head-tilting preferences are. After all, if a left-tilter kisses a right-tilter, who gives way and switches head-tilt preferences?

I'm not going to work out the math here—I suggest that anyone interested in doing so should get hold of the Feb. 13 issue of Nature and check out Güntürkün's calculations. But I think it's interesting that Güntürkün says the ratio of right-handers to left-handers is 8:1, but the ratio of right-tilters to left-tilters is just 2:1.

I think figuring out why that is so is worth a separate study, don't you?

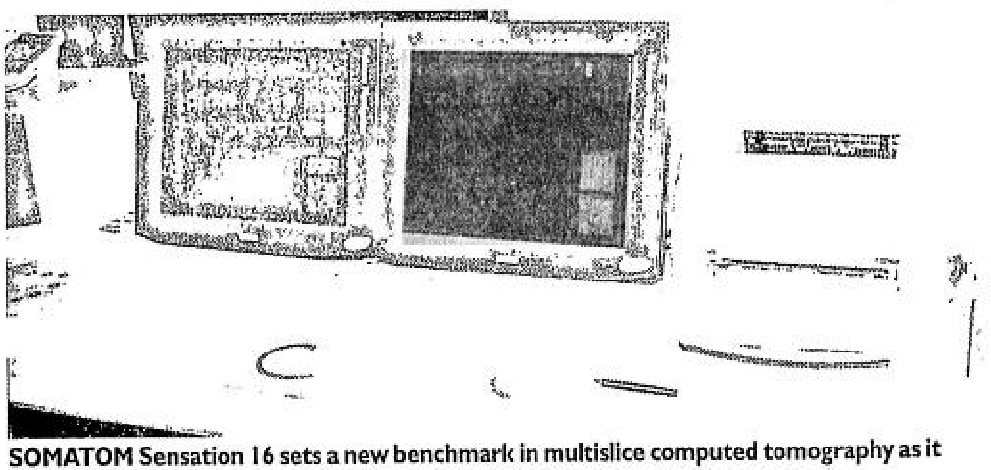
Dolly put to sleep

In other news, Dolly the sheep is dead; euthanized last week after a lung infection was deemed untreatable by her veterinarians. I'm surprised there isn't a call for a worldwide moment of silence in honor of her passing.

I remember my first semester in college and my biology teacher telling us about Dolly and how she came to be. And I remember the furor over the possibility of human cloning, and the subsequent laws and restrictions on research at the genetic level, all following the birth of what was possibly the most spoiled, camera- and people-friendly sheep in existence.

Dolly gave cloning experiments a face, made the Roslin Institute in Scotland a force to reckon with in genetic research, and made people forget too easily that she was the one embryo out of several hundreds that succeeded in being born and living a fairly normal life.

Now that she's dead, she'll continue to serve as an inspiration to budding scientists by being stuffed and placed in a museum in Edinburgh. It could have been worse—they might have turned her into haggis and made sure everyone had a piece of Dolly in them.



SOMATOM Sensation 16 sets a new benchmark in multislice computed tomography as it uses an easy-to-use and intuitive platform to streamline the work in acquiring image, evaluation of data and processing of complex images.

Much-improved CT scanner debuts in KL

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

KUALA LUMPUR—Doctors here will soon be able to detect coronary heart disease even before the onset of symptoms, and lung and colon cancers at their early stages through a new generation computed tomography (CT) scanner.

Malaysian Health Minister Chua Jui Meng lauded the HSC Medical Center's multislice CT scanner, the first in Southeast Asia, during the hospital's grand opening last Tuesday.

"This country is proud to have not only Southeast Asia's first one-stop center for screening and diagnosing heart (diseases), stroke and cancer but also for being the first to be equipped with a Somaton Sensation 16," said the minister. "With its advanced features doctors can now address more effectively heart diseases, stroke and cancers—three leading causes of death not only in Malaysia or in the region but throughout the world."

The three diseases kill some 18 million people worldwide, the minister said.

Early detection of these diseases is the key to saving more lives, according to Richard Hausmann, CEO of the CT Division of Siemens Medical Solution, manufacturer of Sensation 16.

Detecting small vessels

HSC Medical Center executive director Dr. Lim Yin Chow revealed they were able to detect coronary narrowing in a number of people who just volunteered to go through the CT scanner.

"It was quite by accident; they were not even aware of their condition or felt any symptoms, but Sensation 16 showed how close they were from getting a heart attack. The noninvasive coronary angiographic images of the CT scanner is really impressive," Lim said.

Sensation 16 can display a patient's heart in resolutions that enable doctors to see even small blood vessels and other fine anatomical details, which before would have been impossible without surgery.

"With Sensation 16, we were able to detect plaques before the onset of cardiac symptoms. Such advanced features convinced me this machine would be the most suitable CT imaging system," said Lim.

Sensation 16 uses innovative image reconstruction techniques based on 16-slice detector technology to generate three-dimentional images of organs, like the heart and its coronary arteries, the lungs and the colon.

Siemens combined 16-slice detector technology with fast rotation speeds of less than half a second. Because of this achievement new clinical applications such as virtual cardiac imaging and virtual colonoscopy are now possible.

"Its fast and high-resolution scanning capabilities will, for instance, enable doctors to detect noncalcified plaques in the coronary arteries or to precisely pinpoint ruptures in stroke victims and take corrective intervention measures," Hausmann said.

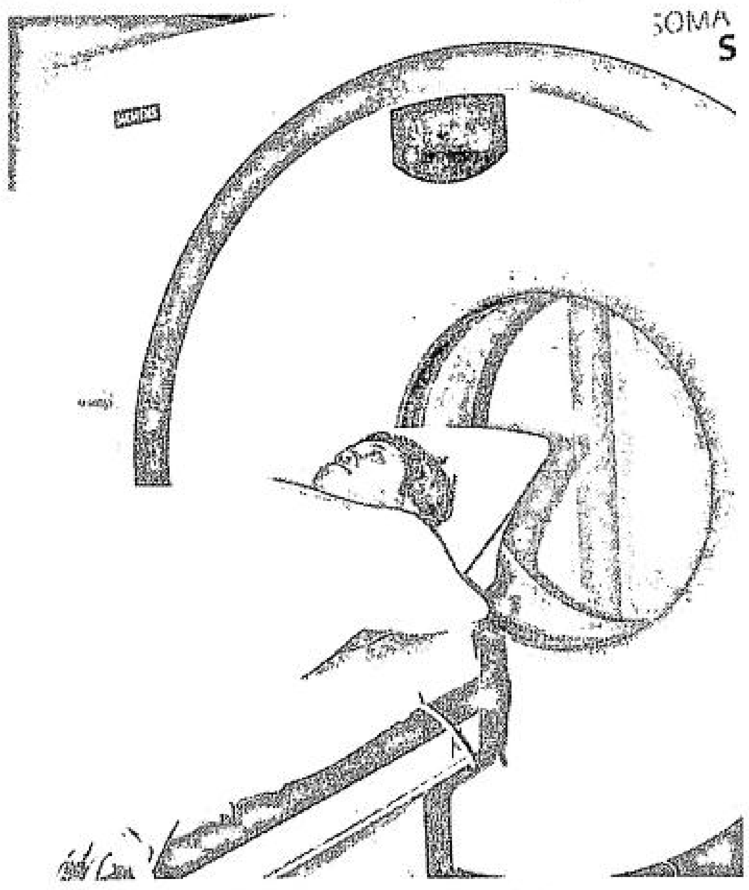
Easy for elderly

High-resolution images of the lungs can now be obtained in just 10 seconds, making it easy even for the elderly to hold their breath during a CT scan examination.

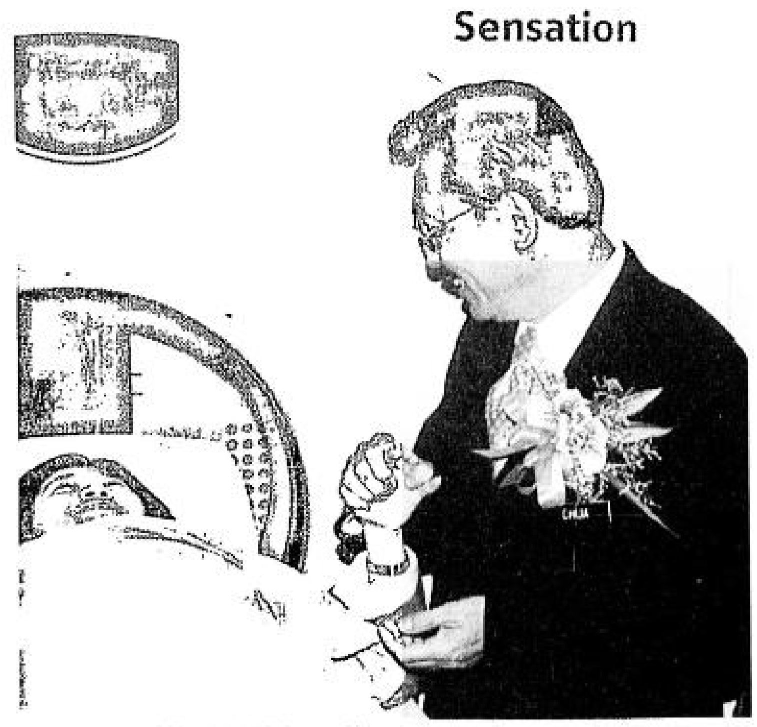
Through Sensation 16, it is now also possible to perform virtual colonoscopy to reliably detect colon polyps, a precursor of colon cancer.

Sensation 16, which costs between $1 million and $1.5 million depending on the configuration, had its global launch in March last year.

In the last few months, over 250 Sensation 16 systems have been installed worldwide, including 30 in Asia. It may soon become available in the Philippines.



WITH 16 SIMULTANEOUSLY acquired slices, the Somatom Sensation 16 requires just a low dose of radiation to provide accurate images of a patient's anatomy.



MALAYSIAN Health Minister Chua Jui Meng welcomes the country's—and the region's—first multislice scanner that harmonizes volume, speed and detail in acquiring images.

> High-resolution images of the lungs can now be obtained in just 10 seconds, making it easy even for the elderly to hold their breath during a CT scan examination

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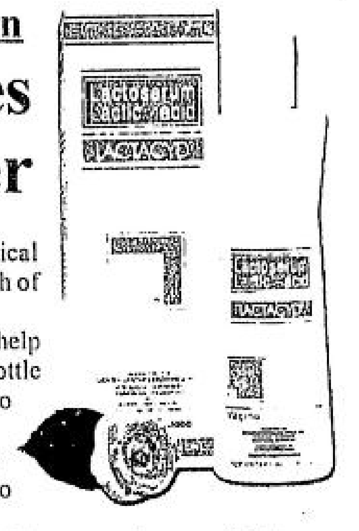
'A Peso to Detect, A Peso to Protect' campaign

Sanofi-Synthelabo intensifies drive against cervical cancer



SANOFI-SYNTHELABO Philippines, a global research-based pharmaceutical company, recently intensified its drive against cervical cancer with the relaunch of its **"A Peso to Detect, A Peso to Protect"** campaign.

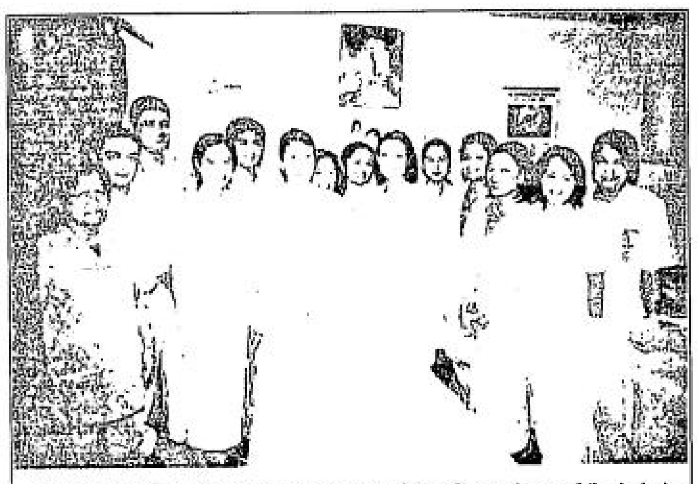
Now on its second year, the campaign is being undertaken in an effort to help curb the incidence of cervical cancer among women. For every Lactacyd bottle sold in selected supermarkets, grocery stores, and drugstores, Sanofi-Synthelabo will donate P1.00 to the Cervical Cancer Screening Campaign.

Sanofi-Synthelabo also forged partnership with the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS) recently with the renewal of an agreement to jointly spearhead a nationwide Pap Smear Screening Campaign.

Since the start of the campaign last year, 3,667 women have availed of free screening tests. This year, Sanofi-Synthelabo president Peter Dolinsky and POGS president Dr. Lyra Ruth Clemente-Chua hope to reach more patients by conducting more free pap smear screening activities.

This year's campaign reeled off last February 19 at the St. Luke's Medical Center where free pap smear tests were administered. About 100 patients availed of the screening test conducted by OB Gynecologists of the St. Luke's Department of OB Gynecology led by Dr. Sandee Uy Go, chief senior resident, and Dr. Michelle B. Espiritu-Isip, senior resident.

Cervical cancer strikes nearly 500,000 women worldwide every year. In the Philippines, statistics show that more than 4,000 new cases of cervical cancer were reported last year.



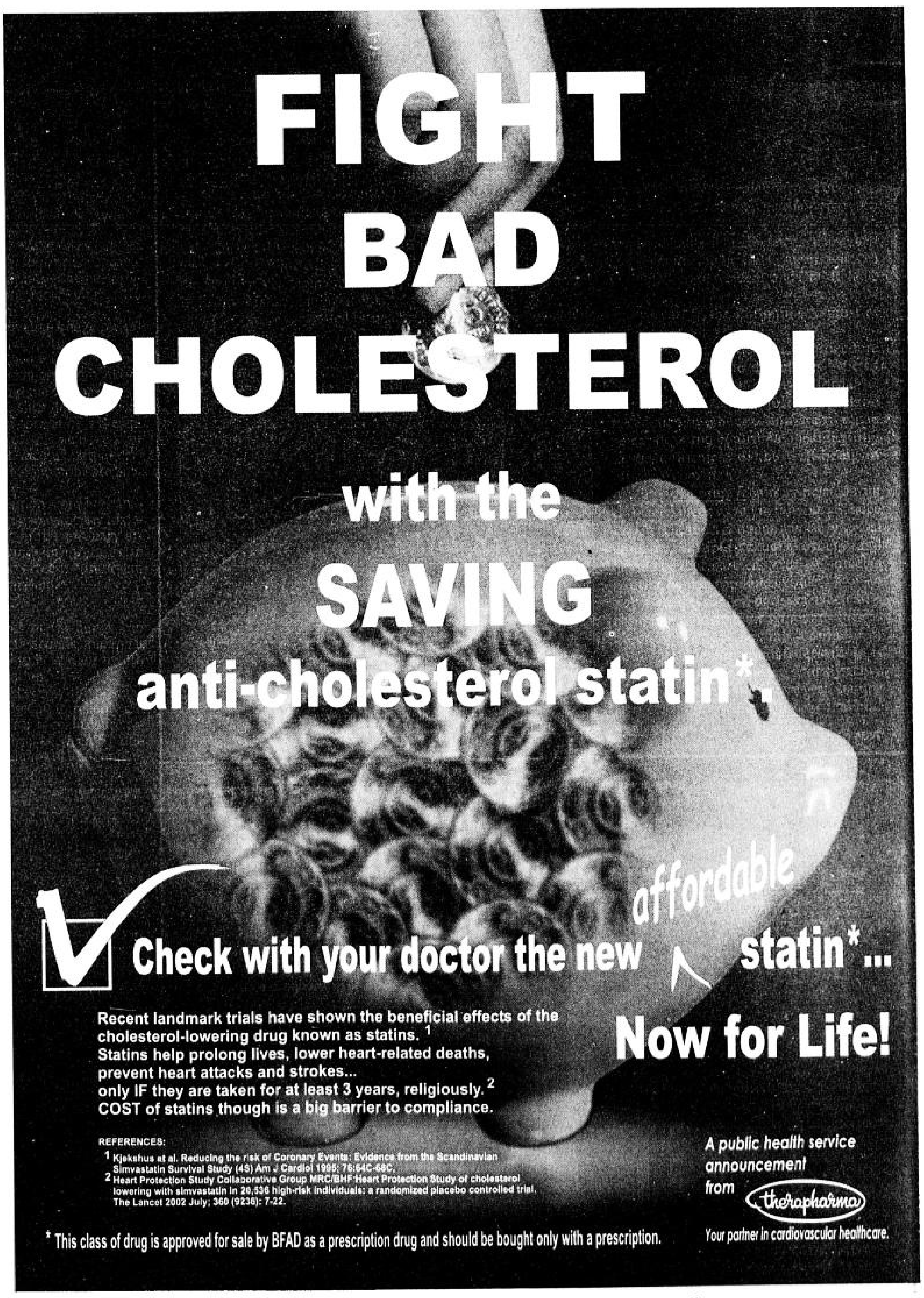
OB Gynecologists from the Department of OB Gynecology of St. Luke's Medical Center led by Dr. Sandee Uy Go and Dr. Michelle B. Espiritu-Isip are all smiles after conducting free pap smear screening tests at St. Luke's last Feb. 19. The project was jointly undertaken by the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society and Sanofi-Synthelabo Philippines.

However, pap smear, a procedure that can be used to detect this type of cancer early is not easily affordable. Thus, POGS and Sanofi-Synthelabo inked an agreement to initiate free pap smear tests and contribute meaningfully to the upliftment of the well-being of Filipino women.

Pre-disposing factors associated with cervical cancer were cited by Dr. Sandee Uy Go. The most common are: early sexual contact, multiple sexual partners, and having sexual partners who are infected with the human papilloma virus.

Cervical cancer, once detected early, is curable. Look out for symptoms such as bleeding after sexual contact or abnormalities in menstruation. It is important for those who are sexually active to have a pap smear test every year, starting at age 17, and maintain proper feminine hygiene.

ADVT.



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REFERENCES:
1 Kjekshus et al. Reducing the risk of Coronary Events: Evidence from the Scandinavian Simvastatin Survival Study (4S) Am J Cardiol 1995; 76:64C-68C.
2 Heart Protection Study Collaborative Group MRC/BHF Heart Protection Study of cholesterol lowering with simvastatin in 20,536 high-risk individuals: a randomized placebo controlled trial. The Lancet 2002 July; 360 (9236): 7-22.

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KBPI 70	Unit 303 3/F #7395Praise Condominium, Santilan St., Makati City Condominium Unit : Office & Commercial space. Finished complete with male & female CRs; Floor Area – 144.307 sq. m.	P 5,382,651.00
KBPI 71	Unit 701 7/F #7395Praise Condominium, Santilan St., Makati City Condominium Unit : Office & Commercial space. Partitioned into three (3) separate units Finished complete with male & female CRs; Floor Area – 255.003 sq. m	P 9,843,115.80
KBPI 72	Unit 801 8/F #7395Praise Condominium, Santilan St., Makati City Condominium Unit : Office & Commercial space. Partitioned into three (3) separate units Finished complete with male & female CRs; Floor Area – 255.003 sq. m.	P 10,200,120.00
KBPI 98	Unit 506 5/F #7395Praise Condominium, Santilan St., Makati City Condominium Unit : Office & Commercial space. Finished complete with male & female CRs; Floor Area – 28.079 sq. m.	P 1,047,346.70
KBPI 206	Unit 407 7/F #7395Praise Condominium, Santilan St., Makati City Condominium Unit : Office & Commercial space. Finished complete with male & female CRs: Floor Area – 29.331 sq. m.	P 1,094,046.30
KBPI 207	Unit 602 8/F #7395Praise Condominium, Santilan St., Makati City Condominium Unit : Office & Commercial space. Finished complete with male & female CRs; Floor Area – 34.874 sq. m.	P 1,300,800.20
KBPI 208	Unit 607 5/F #7395Praise Condominium, Santilan St., Makati City Condominium Unit : Office & Commercial space. Finished complete with male & female CRs: Floor Area – 29.331 sq. m.	P 1,094,046.30
KBPI 66	Lot 2-A-1-H-2 (Formerly 2-A-1-H) Alabang Zapote Road, Las Piñas City Commercial Lot with an area of 594 sq. m., improved by two (2) single storey building utilized as office and canteen; Building 1 – FA : 104.00 sq. m / Building 2 – FA : 61.00 sq. m.	P 17,358,000.00
KBPI 159	No. 315 El Grande Avenue, BF Homes, Parañaque City Two (2) adjoining Residential Lots, improved by Single Storey Residential Building with Roofdeck. With four (4) bedrooms, and two (2) toilet & bathrooms Lot Area = 793.00 sq. m. / Floor Area = 325.25 sq. m.	P 7,295,000.00
KBPI 175	Unit 3-C, T-Tower Condominium, No. 5040 P Burgos St., cor. Calderon St., Makati City One (1) storey bedroom Residential Condo Unit located at the third floor, provided with living, kitchen area, and two (2) toilet & bathroom. Floor Area – 70 sq. m.	P 1,750,000.00
KBPI 176	Unit 3-D, T-Tower Condominium, No. 5040 P. Burgos St., cor. Calderon St., Makati City Studio type Residential Condo Unit located at the third floor, provided with living, kitchen area and one (1) toilet & bathroom. Floor Area – 32 sq. m.	P 800,000.00
KBPI 161	Unit 222, 2/F, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City FA - 145.06 sq.m.	P 8,700,000.00
KBPI 162	Unit 223, 2/F, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City FA - 192.05 sq.m.	P 11,500,000.00
KBPI 178	Chingkiang St., Brgy. San Jose, Pasay City Two adjoining lots with a house. Lot Area – 600 sq. m.	P 10,110,000.00
KBPI 195	Unit 2, Garden Homes, Aventine Hill Street, BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City Improved by two (2) storey Residential Townhouse – Type Building Lot Area – 72 sq. m. / Floor Area – 84 sq. m.	P 1,000,000.00
KBPI 196	Unit 52, Garden Homes, Aventine Hill Street, BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City Improved by two (2) storey Residential Townhouse – Type Building Lot Area – 56.28 sq. m. / Floor Area – 63.40 sq. m.	P 800,000.00
KBPI 198	Unit 72, Garden Homes, Nicanor Abelardo Street, BF Homes, Parañaque City Improved by two (2) storey Residential Townhouse – Type Building Lot Area – 72 sq. m. / Floor Area – 84 sq. m.	P 1,000,000.00
KBPI 201	Unit 82, Garden Homes, Nicanor Abelardo Street, BF Homes, Parañaque City Improved by two (2) storey Residential Townhouse – Type Building Lot Area – 82.50 sq. m. / Floor Area – 93.50 sq. m.	P 1,200,000.00
KPBI 209	Unit 21, Garden Homes, Nicanor Abelardo Street., BF Homes, Parañaque City Improved by two (2) storey Residential Townhouse – Type Building Lot Area – 82.50 sq.m. / Floor Area - 136 sq.m.	P 1,300,000.00
KBPI 210	Lot 5, Blk 3, No. 67Jerusalem Street, Multinational Village, Parañaque City Improved by two (2) storey residential building Lot Area – 560 sq.m. / Total Floor Area – 464.97 sq.m.	P 9,535,400.00
KBPI 211	Lot 8, Blk. 9, No. 9, Rainbow Street Bricktown Subd., Moonwalk Village, Parañaque City Improved by two (2) storey residential building Lot area – 518 sq.m. / Total Floor Area – 380 sq.m.	P 6,011,000.00
KBPI 212	Belmont Southpark Townhomes, United Hills Subd., Brgy San Dionisio, Parañaque City Consist of 21 Units / Floor Area ranging from 95.34 sq.m. to 182.45 sq.m.	P15,600.00/sq.m.
KPBI 213	Unit 5B Ponte Salcedo Center (Vernida VII) No. 120 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City Residential Unit / Floor Area – 140 sq.m.	P 7,700,000.00

AREA II: Manila, Quezon City and San Juan Area

CODE	*LOCATION / DESCRIPTION*	*SELLING PRICE*
KBPI 117 – 118	Luxor Villas Townhomes, Santolan Road, San Juan, Metro Manila Four (4) storey concrete bldg with parking space. Unit 5 - FA = 280.00 sq. m. Unit 9 – FA = 280.00 sq.m.	P 7,800,000.00 each
KBPI 147	No. 2985 Clemente Street cor. Gabriel Street, Tondo, Manila Improved by a two (2) Storey Residential Building and Candy Factory with roofdeck Lot Area – 172.00 sq. m.; Floor Area – 156.00 sq. m	P 3,800,000.00
KBPI 168 – 170	Las Villas del Cielo Townhomes, Brgy Culiat, Tandang Sora, Quezon City Improved by Two (2) storey residential (townhouse type) condo unit with carport. With three (3) bedrooms and two (2) toilet and bathrooms: Unit 35 - Lot Area – 58.15 sq. m. / Total Floor Area – 102.50 sq. m. Unit 38 – Lot Area – 58.12 sq.m. / Total Floor Area – 101.99 sq.m. Unit 64 – Lot Area – 52.48 sq.m. / Total Floor Area – 98 sq.m.	P 1,400,000.00 each
KBPI 187	No. 57, Samar Avenue, Brgy. South Triangle, Quezon City Bungalow with basement and concrete framed building. It has two (2) living rooms, dining room, open terrace with rock garden, foyer, patio, lanai, four (4) bedrooms, six (6) T & Bs, maid quarter, kitchen, storage room, and laundry area at the GF, and family room, guest rooms, library, three (3) T & Bs, driver's quarter and garage at the basement level. Lot Area – 1,500 sq. m. / Total Floor Area – 585 sq. m.	P 38,000,000.00
KBPI 188	No. 12 (Lot 2), Carmel Street, Fairview Park Subdivision, Brgy. Fairview West, Quezon City Various classroom / Office building with Lot Area of 14,066 sq. m.	P 65,000,000.00
KBPI 189	Lot 7, Block 20, P. Bukaneg Street, Brgy. Sta. Lucia, Novaliches, Quezon City Improved by one (1) storey residential building with attic and carport. With four (4) bedrooms and two (2) toilet & bathrooms: Lot Area – 150 sq. m. / Total Floor Area – 158.55 sq. m.	P 1,300,000.00
KBPI 191	No. 12, Jude Street, Imelda Village, Brgy. Bahay Toro, Quezon City Improved by a two-level residential building with a single-storey extension type structure. With 3 bedrooms and 2 T & Bs. Lot Area – 252 sq. m. / Floor Area – 192.01 sq. m.	P 3,000,000.00
KBPI 193	No. 140, G. Reyes Street, Balong Bato, San Juan, Metro Manila Interior lot improved by a single-storey residential building with covered carport. With 4 bedrooms and 2 T & Bs. Lot Area – 250 sq. m. / Floor Area – 154.10 sq. m.	P 4,000,000.00
KBPI 214	Vermont Square Townhomes, Sunshine Compound, Brgy Crame, Cubao, Quezon City Consist of Three (3) Units Condominium / Floor Area - 174.20 sq.m. each	P 3,135,600.00 each
KBPI 215	No. 75, Road 2, Project 6, Quezon City Improved by two (2) storey (split level type) residential building Lot Area – 261.80 sq.m. / 312.06 sq.m.	P 5,900,000.00
KBPI 216	No. 332, Uranus Street, Dreamland Subd., Mandaluyong City Vacant Lot – Lot Area – 174 sq.m.	P 1,740,000.00
KBPI 217	Unit 1 (Apartment 14 – D1) 14th Floor, Legaspi Towers 300, Roxas Boulevard corner Pablo Ocampo St. (formerly Vito Cruz) Malate, Manila Floor Area – 119.81 sq.m.	P 4,200,000.00
KBPI 218	No. 2350 Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila Vacant Lot – Lot Area – 392.76 sq.m.	P 18,696,000.00
KBPI 219	No. 969 Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila Improved by: Single Storey (old house) Lot Area – 481.10 sq.m.	P 10,800,000.00
KBPI 220	No. 219, Int. F. Sanchez St., Pasay City Improved by Adjoining Single Storey and 3 doors / two (2) storey residential apartment building Lot Area - 162.50 sq.m / Floor Area – 253.30 sq.m.	P 1,350,000.00

AREA III: Angono and Teresa, Rizal Area

CODE	*LOCATION / DESCRIPTION*	*SELLING PRICE*
KBPI 55	Lot 10, Block 1, Mission Hills., Brgy Muzon, Angono, Rizal Vacant Residential Lot with an area of 894 sq. m. Fully developed residential subdivision which is few kilometers away from Antipolo Town Proper: Equipped with basic amenities and utilities of a middle to upper middle class subd.	P 1,609,200.00
KBPI 57	Lot 13, Block 1, Mission Hills., Brgy. Muzon, Angono, Rizal Vacant Residential Lot with an area of 540 sq. m. Fully developed residential subdivision which is few kilometers away from Antipolo Town Proper: Equipped with basic amenities and utilities of a middle to upper middle class subd.	P 972,000.00
KBPI 58	Lot 14, Block 1, Mission Hills., Brgy. Muzon, Angono, Rizal Vacant Residential Lot with an area of 540 sq. m. Fully developed residential subdivision which is few kilometers away from Antipolo Town Proper Equipped with basic amenities and utilities of a middle to upper middle class subd.	P 972,000.00
KBPI 202	No. 72, Magsaysay Avenue, Brgy. San Gabriel, Teresa, Rizal Improved by a split type (bldg. 1) and single-storey (bldg. 2) residential buildings, both with basement and store space. Approximately 400 meters from town proper Lot Area – 313 sq. m. / Floor Area = Bldg. 1 – 122.79 sq. m. / Bldg. 2 – 89.50 sq. m.	P 1,300,000.00

AREA IV: South Luzon Area

CODE	*LOCATION / DESCRIPTION*	*SELLING PRICE*
KBPI 61	Capitol Hills Executive Subdivision, Trece Martirez City, Cavite Various Vacant Residential Lots – 169 lots ranging from 39 sq. m to 72 sq. m. lot area. Classified as low to economy housing subdivision. The subdivision is located at the rear side of Cavite Capitol within the Trece Martirez Town Proper. It is a fully developed subdivision	P 1,800/sq. m.
KBPI 106	Rodeo Hills Subdivision, Alfonso, Cavite Vacant Residential lots – 16 lots ranging from 320 sq. m. to 608 sq. m. lot area	P 1,500/sq. m.
KBPI 107	Rodeo Countryside Estate, Alfonso, Cavite Consists of two (2) Vacant Residential Lots with lot areas of 1000 sq. m. and 2000 sq. m.	P 1,500/ sq. m.
KBPI 111	Taguntong Hills, Taysan, Legaspi City A lot uphill along Legazpi-Manito traverse road, improved by a two-storey residential building (upper level) while the lower level consists of 3-door apartment units. Location is about 5 kms. road-distant from Legazpi City Proper. LA – 2,548 sq. m. / FA – 507.36 sq. m.	P 6,600,000.00
KBPI 112	Taguntong Hills, Taysan, Legaspi City Four (4) adjoining residential lots with a total area of 479 sq. m., situated along the Legazpi-Manito National Highway. With two-storey townhouse unit with basement Overlooking Mayon Volcano.	P 3,100,000.00
KBPI 114	Lot 833 Plan GSS-877 Bo. San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna Vacant Lot / Lot Area – 841 sq.m.	P 1,850,000.00
KBPI 183	Lot 14 & 16, Blk. 29, Road 28, Town & Country Dasmariñas, Brgy. Burol, Dasmariñas, Cavite Vacant Lot / Lot Area = 192 sq. m.	P 768,000.00
KBPI 194	Lot 33, Block 12, Cityview Dasmariñas III Subdivision, Bo. Malinta, Dasmariñas, Cavite Vacant lot with an area of 592 sq. m	P 473,600.00
KBPI 221	Lot 15, Blk. 2, Bravo Street, Orientville I Subdivision, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite Improved by: Bldg 1: one (1) storey split level residential building / FA – 90 sq.m. Bldg 2: two (2) storey residential building / FA – 95 sq.m Lot Area – 258 sq.m	P 1,523,000.00
KBPI 222	Pennsylvania corner Utah Streets, Town & Country Southville Subd., Biñan, Laguna Vacant Lot / Lot Area – 262 sq.m.	P 734,000.000
KBPI 236	No. 285 J. Gonzales St., Poblacion, Biñan, Laguna Improved by: Bldg 1. Two (2) Storey Commercial / Residential Building - TFA - 513.6 sq.m. Bldg 2. Movie House / TFA - 1,237.92 sq.m. Bldg 3. Single Storey Residential Building / FA - 158.65 sq.m. Aggregate Lot Area - 2,085 sq.m.	P 55,000,000.00
KBPI 233	No. 53 N. Gonzales St., Brgy. 2 Poblacion, Tanauan, Batangas Improved by Three (3) Storey School Building with H.E and Clinic Building Lot Area - Aggregate 1,113 sq.m. / Ground Floor – 812.52 sq.m. / 2nd Floor – 797.4 sq.m. 3rd Floor – 786.4 sq.m. / H.E Building – 60 sq.m. / Clinic – 17.5 sq.m.	P 23,000,000.00

AREA V: North Luzon Area

CODE	*LOCATION / DESCRIPTION*	*SELLING PRICE*
KBPI 10 & 11	Unit #2 & Unit #3, Eagle Crest Townhouse Phase 1, Bekekeng Norte Road, Baguio City Townhouse Unit – LA – 120 sq. m. & FA – 162 sq. m.; Eagle crest is about 3 km. away from Marcos Highway; Within the vicinity are Tierra Crest Villas, Richmond Estate, Ciudad Grande & Richgate Subdivision; The unit is a 3-level townhouse w/ basement which consists of 2 big BR & 3 T&B.; It is also equipped with fireplace and water supply is substantial.; Public transportation is available within the site.	P 2,400,000.00 each
KBPI 148	Lot 19, Blk. 1, Road Lot 4, Hilltop Subdivision, Cabanatuan City Residential lot improved by a single-storey residential/apartment building and studio-type units. Lot Area – 240 sq. m. / Floor Area – 240 sq. m.	P 800,000.00
KBPI 149	Lot 18, Blk. 1, Road Lot 4, Hilltop Subdivision, Cabanatuan City Residential lot improved by a single-storey residential/apartment building and studio-type units. Lot Area – 240 sq. m. / Floor Area – 240 sq. m	P 800,000.00
KBPI 223	Lot 10, Blk. 2, Kabukiran Homes Subd., Brgy. Tabe, Guiguinto, Bulacan Improved by one (1) storey (duplex type) residential building Lot Area – 104 sq.m./ Floor Area – 42.50 sq.m	P 273,500.00
KBPI 224	Lot 18, Blk. 3, Kabukiran Homes Subd., Brgy. Tabe, Guiguinto, Bulacan Improved by one (1) storey (duplex type) residential building Lot Area – 117 sq.m./ Floor Area – 30 sq.m	P 290,500.00
KBPI 225	Lot 1-I-2, Brgy. Perez Ilang, Poblacion, San Carlos City, Pangasinan Vacant Lot / Lot Area – 272 sq.m.	P 200,000.00

AREA VI: Visayas and Mindanao Area

CODE	*LOCATION / DESCRIPTION*	*SELLING PRICE*
KBPI 93	No. 28-A Sta. Barbara, Zamboanga City. House & Lot – LA-500 sq. m.; FA-101.70 sq. m. Two (2) adjoining lots with a total area of 500 sq. m. (250 sq. m. per lot), Improved by a concrete single-storey residential building with a floor area of 144.27 sq. m. With five (5) bedrooms and two (2) toilet & bathrooms	P 1,000,000.00
KBPI 227	No. 185 Sta. Barbara St., Zamboanga City Improved by Four (4) Bedroom Two (2) Storey Residential Building Lot Area – 343 sq.m. / Total Floor Area - 229.35 sq.m	P 2,200,000.00
KBPI 234	Capisan Upper San Roque, Zamboanga City Vacant Lot / Lot Area - 9,491 sq.m.	P 200,000.00
KBPI 108	No. 613 Agsho St., Juna Subd., Matina, Davao City Two adjoining lots with a total area of 1,200 sq. m. (600 sq. m. per lot), improved by one (1) storey split level type residential building with a floor area of 352.50 sq. m. With three (3) bedrooms and three (3) toilet & bathrooms. Approximately 1 km. from SM City Mall and approximately 200 meters from Mc Arthur Highway, main thoroughfare.	P 6,500,000.00
KBPI 228	Corner Trade School Drive and C. Dacudao Street, Barrio Obrero, Davao City Improved by Split level one (1) storey residential building Lot Area – 528 sq.m. / Floor Area – 216 sq.m.	P 4,100,000.00
KBPI 229	Emerald St., Ecoland Subd., Phase IV, Barangay Matina, Davao City Improved by one (1) storey residential building Lot Area – 470 sq.m. / Floor Area – 120 sq.m.	P 2,000,000.00
KBPI 230	Pioneer Drive, Barangay Bajada, Davao City Vacant Lot / Lot Area – 1,298 sq.m.	P 8,400,000.00
KBPI 151	Corner Muelle Loney Street, Iloilo City Vacant lot with an area of 914.00 sq. m. Approximately 100 meters southeast of Iznart Street and about 1 km. from Iloilo City Hall	P 18,280,000.00
KBPI 160	L. J. Ledesma Subdivision, Brgy. Buhang, Jaro, Iloilo City Consisting of 63 vacant residential Lots with an average area of 60 sq. m. Site is approximately 15 minutes drive from the city proper.	P 1,500/sq. m.
KBPI 185	Petalsville Subdivision, Brgy. Tabuk Suba, Jaro, Iloilo City Vacant lots with partial developed residential subdivision, consisting of 192 lots with an aggregate area of 48,419 sq. m.; Approximately 400 meters northwest from the national road and about 2 kms. northeast of Municipality of Jaro.	P 800/sq. m. TO 1,000/sq. m.
KBPI 204	Brgy. Buhang, Jaro, Iloilo City Residential vacant lot with an area of 500 sq. m. Approximately 200 meters from National Highway and about 15 minutes drive from Jaro Plaza	P 550,000.00
KBPI 205	Brgy. Gawahon, Sitio, Padios, Sara, Iloilo City Four (4) adjoining lots mostly utilized as riceland, improved by a split level residential / farm house. About 1.5 kms. from Sara town proper and 95 kms. from Iloilo City	P 3,000,000.00
KBPI 182	Brgy. Hagdan, Guintarcan Island, Sta. Fe, Cebu City Vacant agricultural land, 0.61 ha. Consisting of four (4) adjoining lots and is being classified as Agricultural. It is about 600 meters away from Hagdan Elementary School.	P 150,000.00
KBPI 231	Bo. Marigondon, Lapu – Lapu City Vacant Lot / Lot Area – 4,618 sq.m.	P 2,309,000.00
KBPI 232	Bo. Agus, Lapu – Lapu City Vacant Lot / Lot Area – 1,835 sq.m.	P 2,272,350.00
KBPI 184	Roxas Avenue Extension, Brgy. Andagao, Kalibo, Aklan Two-storey building with a total floor area of approximately 338 sq. m. and a lot area of 543 sq. m.; Former bank branch site	P 14,500,000.00
KBPI 226	Barrio Bula, General Santos City Vacant Lot / Lot Area – 6,824 sq.m.	P 2,700,000.00
KBPI 235	No. 29 Quezon Avenue, Cotabato City Improved by: One (1) Storey Residential Building / Two (2) Storey Residential Building & Six (6) doors Apartment / Aggregate Lot Area - 811 sq.m. / Total Floor Area - 369.98 sq.m.	P 10,600,000.00

Prices, interest rates and terms are subject to change without prior notice.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1.) The BUYER receives and accepts the property on an "AS-IS WHERE-IS" basis. "AS-IS WHERE-IS" basis shall mean that the SELLER makes no warranty as to the quality and physical condition of the property and that the BUYER buys and takes it in the condition that it is found and from the place where it is located, as well as all legal actions and encumbrances on the property that the BUYER knows or ought to know.

2.) Buyers are enjoined to personally inspect / investigate/ verify the actual site, condition, and status of the real properties and improvements, if any, and chattels as well as all the documents of ownership with the appropriate Register of Deeds before formally submitting their offers. Buyers are also advised that some of the above properties are subject of on-going litigation proceedings.

3.) Properties will be sold on a "FIRST-COME FIRST –SERVE BASIS. The term "first–come, first–serve" shall mean any offer to purchase in cash based on the price indicated herein shall be given first priority. Offer to purchase thru term financing via Bank loan shall be evaluated for management approval.

4.) Keppel Bank reserves the right to reject any offer to purchase. The decision of Keppel Bank is final and binding

All brokers are welcome!

As of February 2003

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
METRO MANILA
Welfareville Compound, Brgy. Addition Hills
Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 535-4521 or 535-4529

SENTRONG SIGLA

February 10, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

CHD-MM BAC-ITB NO. 2003-01

The Department of Health-Center for Health Development-Metro Manila (CHD-MM) invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of the following, chargeable against GOP funds:

1. **Drugs & Medicines**
2. **Medical, Environmental, Surgical & Laboratory Supplies**

Only duly accredited suppliers/manufacturers/distributors as certified by the Suppliers Accreditation Committees for Drugs and Medicines and for Medical, Environmental, Surgical and Laboratory Supplies and Materials of the Department of Health are qualified to participate in this bidding.

Bidding documents can be secured from Ms. Elenita S. Esmero, at Bldg. 1, 2/F Infectious Disease Cluster Office or Ms. Arabella T. Pineda at Bldg. 1, 1/F, Local Health Assistance Division (LHAD) Office, CHD-MM, Welfareville Cmpd., Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS, Philippine Currency (P500.00).

Schedule of Activities

a)	**Issuance of Bid Documents**	February 18-28, 2003 (9:00 AM - 2:00 PM) Building 1, 2/F, Infectious Disease Cluster Officer Building 1, 1/F, LHAD Office
b)	**Submission of Eligibility Requirements**	March 4-6, 2003 (9:00 AM - 12:00 NN) Conference Rm. 2, Training Bldg.
c)	**Pre-bid Conference**	March 10, 2003 (9:00 AM - 12:00 NN) Medical, Environmental, Surgical and Laboratory Supplies March 10, 2003 (1:30 - 3:00 PM) Drugs & Medicines Amphitheatre, Training Building
d)	**Submission and Opening of Sealed Bids**	March 26, 2003 (8:00 - 9:00 AM) Medical, Environmental, Surgical and Laboratory Supplies Conference Room 1, Training Building, March 26, 2003 (9:00 - 10:00 AM) Drugs & Medicines Amphitheatre, Training Building

All activities will be held in CHD-MM, Welfareville Compound, Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City.

For further information contact the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) secretariat c/o Ms. Arabella T. Pineda at tel. no. **535-4529** (Drugs & Medicines), or Ms. Elenita Esmero at tel. nos. **535-4521** or **718-3097** (Medical, Environmental, Surgical & Laboratory Supplies).

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the CHD-MM's action.

(Sgd.) **DAVID J. LOZADA, JR., MD, MPA, CESO III**
Director IV, CHD-MM

(PDI - Feb 15 & 22, 2003)

SAN BEDA

GRAND ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2003

Saturday; February 22, 2003
SBC Campus, Mendiola, Manila

Schedule:

12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch at the old HS Faculty Room
2:00 p.m.	Holy Mass at the Chapel Awarding of Medals to Silver Jubilarians
5:00 p.m.	Registration
6:00 p.m.	Dinner Program Proper Entertainment

ALL SBC ALUMNI ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.
NO NEED TO PAY ANYTHING.

Please call Noli del Rosario at 395-2336 or 0917 532-4100 for more info.

U-Bix Corp. celebrates 29th anniversary

U-BIX Corp. kicked off its 29th year with a celebration at the Manila Golf and Country Club, Feb. 10. The highlight of the cocktail event was the recognition of U-Bix's most valued clients for the past 21 to 29 years. "Without the support of our clients, we wouldn't be where we are today," expressed Bert Bravo, president and CEO of U-Bix Corp, "That is why through this anniversary celebration, we are honored to recognize those who have supported us and made our progress possible."

Also highlighted was the product launching of two of Konica's latest copier models. First was the Konica 7145 Workgroup Document System, a multi-function machine that has the ability to copy, print, scan and fax all in one device. The 7145 has the ability to transform itself into a complete solution for customers, by bringing connectivity to the main body engine so that the machine can be connected "out-of-the-box" without having to install additional hardware and software the way other copiers require.

Another model that was launched was the high-impact Konica 8031 Digital Full-Color Copier, the solution to achieving perfect color documents everyday. The Konica 8031 now allows customers to develop their presentation materials in full color and print or copy them in sharp quality on paper or overhead transparencies at 31 pages per minute quite simply and brilliantly at 600 dpi. It also features advanced imaging technology ensure cleaner text, sharper edges and truer, more stable colors.

U-Bix has marked many milestones in the last 29 years. In addition to its distributorship of Konica copiers, more products were added to its lineup of office equipment as it forged partnerships with other corporations like Epson for the distribution of printers, multi-media projectors and scanners, Riso Kagaku Corporation for the distribution of digital duplicating machines, and Okamura for office furniture systems.

Present during the cocktails and product launching was U-Bix Corporation's distinguished partner from Konica Corporation, the general manager for Office Document Company, Konica Asia Headquarters, Mr Mitsuhiro Hasegawa, as well as Mr Hiroaki Ito, president of Epson Philippines.

SHOWN (from left) are Ms Gigi Mercado, assistant vice president for customer service; Mr Edilberto Bravo, president and CEO: Mr Mitsuhiro Hasegawa, general manager of Konica Asia HQ; lawyer Enrique Belo, chair.

FROM left are Mr. Mitsuhiro Hasegawa, general manager of Konica Asia HQ; Mrs Vida Ty, EVP and COO, Mr Edilberto Bravo, president and CEO; Mr. Edgardo Malinao, SAVP for sales and marketing

Citystate's income up to 186%

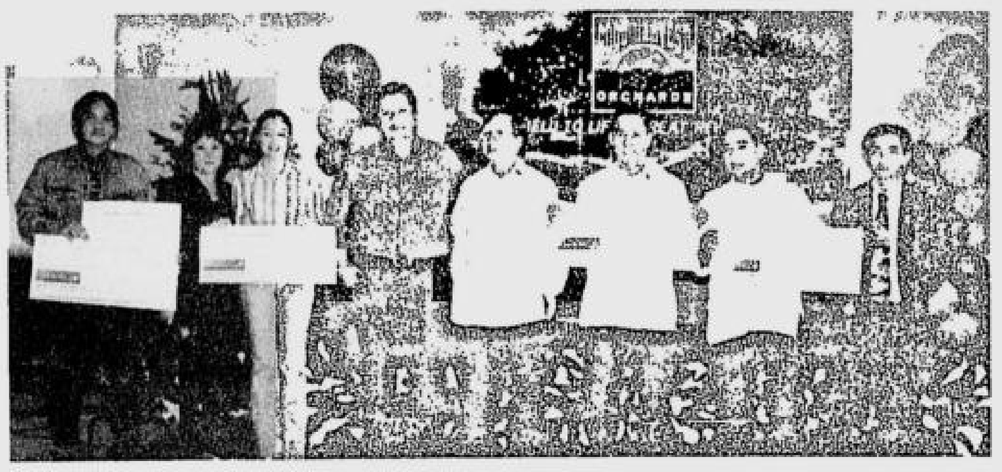
PUBLICLY listed Citystate Savings Bank registered a 186 percent increase in net income from P8.87 million posted in 2001 to P25.4 million in 2002. The increase of income is attributed to the bank's maximum utilization of income generating acquired assets and continued efficiency in loans receivables collection.

The interest income increased 40.31 percent to P108.94 million from last year's P77.64 million, as the loan portfolio stood at P706.79 million from P346.99 million or an increase of 105 percent. Despite the increase, the bank's non-performing loan remained at a low of only 4.37 percent as against industry average of 14 percent. The bank generated deposits of P715 million in 2002 or an increase of 94.47 percent from the previous year. The surge in deposits shows the heightened confidence of the bank's clientele.

The thrust of Citystate Savings Bank is to focus on retail banking to small and medium enterprises (SME's). Citystate's lending activities focus largely on consumer loans, specifically on auto loans and jewelry loans. The jewelry loan has one of the lowest interest rate of 2 percent monthly against industry of more than 4 percent. The interest rate may be lowered to 1 percent monthly for every deposit of P100,000.

To further strengthen the bank's product and services to its clientele, Citystate Savings Bank has expanded their online services by providing additional ATM's in their existing branches and other locations. In a recent gathering of BancNet and other member banks, Citystate Savings Bank has once again proven their efficiency in ATM approval transactions as they were presented the service award for being the most efficient Bancnet member for the year 2002. Listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange, Citystate Savings Bank share value stands at P14.75, a 27 percent increase from their initial public offering of P11.55 per share in January of 2001.

Citysate Savings Bank is a Filipino-Singaporean owned company, operated by a consortium which includes the Fortune Insurance Group, one of the country's leading insurance firms, and foreign investors in the Citystate Management Group Holdings Pte. Ltd. of Singapore that manages insurance and real estate business organizations throughout Southeast Asia.



GOOD HARVESTERS DRIVE TO SUCCESS

Good Harvest Orchards (GH) handed over symbolic cheques to some of the successful Orchard Business Partners (OBP) representing their car incentive rewards. The rewards system is just one of the many income streams OBP's of Good Harvest can avail when they go into the Good Harvest business opportunity. These OBP's reaped the highest points in GH's unique business venture that incorporates mango farming and a cooperative-style referral marketing plan. Photo shows (from left) Greg Lopez, Wilma Siason, Teresa Lazaro, Ralph Lopez (CEO), Rey Abella, Marcelo Cornejo, Willy Terrado and Benjie Pazcoguin.

Fil-Chi presents 'Night of a Hundred Flowers'

THE FILIPINO-CHINESE Federation of Business and Professional Women (Fil-Chi) headed by Myrna Yao, president, will present a concert 'Night of a Hundred Flowers'. March 8, 7 p.m. at the Philamlife Theatre. The concert is a fusion of Filipino and Chinese classical and popular music. It is for the benefit of the livelihood program of Fil-Chi for women in the grassroots. It is also the 4th Anniversary of Fil-Chi.

The performing artists are: Jose Marie Chan, Elaine Lee, soprano, Edgardo Crisol, tenor, Dennis Lee, baritenor.Candy Fan, another Filipino-Chinese soprano, will perform in the concert. The other performers are: the Yellow River Ensemble, a 38 - voice choir of Fil-Chi singers conducted by Marilou Su-Ang; the Liatsan Family Orchestra, composed of 18 musicians playing ethnic Chinese instruments conducted by Helen Ngo; the Fil-Chi Dance Co. will perform a dance of the concubines entitled "Tour of the Imperial Palace."

Over-all chair of the concert committee is lawyer Amy Limsico-Wong. The concert is produced by Musika Klasika Filipino. Tickets are available. Call Ruby or Ada at 731-8488 / 732-9523 / 740-4676 or any member of Fil-Chi.

CONSULAR CORPS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Mr Oscar C. de Venecia, Consul General a.h. of Ukraine, recently took his oath as dean of the Consular Corps of the Philippines for 2003. Shown above is the new dean (left) as he awards the plaque of appreciation to outgoing dean (2002) Mr Ian Sargeant, HM Consul of the British Embassy.

NOVEMBER 6-8, 2002

TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LCW

The National Council of Women of the Philippines (NCWP) and the department of Interior and Local Government with the support of the Sambayanihan Foundation Inc. (SFI), the Local Government Development Foundation (Logodev) and the Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), organized the nationwide training program for the Local Councils of Women. Four training sessions were held from Sept. 30 to Nov. 8 that targeted 20 percent of the total cities and municipalities in the Philippines. Women leaders from both the local governments and local women groups attended the training sessions that aimed to enhance the LCWs and facilitate the realization of its vision of bringing the national agenda for women empowerment down to the barangay level. In photo are Councilor Irene Luansing, lawyer Susan N. de los Reyes, Governor Daisy Fuentes, Dr. Willibold Frehner, Secretary Joey Lina, Commissioner Myrna T. Yao, Governor Angel Amante, Ms Irene Santiago and Dr. Ramona Bustamante-Rañeses.

MORE GPS NOW OPEN

Globelines, the landline telephone service of Globe Telecom, has opened its payment centers in strategic places nationwide to fully serve its subscribers. Aside from providing the highest level of service, the Globelines Payment and Services Centers (GPS) set the trend in revolutionary service - paving the way for faster turn-around times in responding to requests and more specialized service. As of January 2003, eight GPS centers in Luzon, and 21 in Visayas are now open. Shown are Antique provincial administrator engineer Manuel Salazar, Antique provincial board member Burgos Nicopior, Marlyn Corvera, Vice Mayor Ronnie Molina and Globe GPS head Tina Ortiz, during the ribbon cutting ceremony of GPS San Jose, Antique.

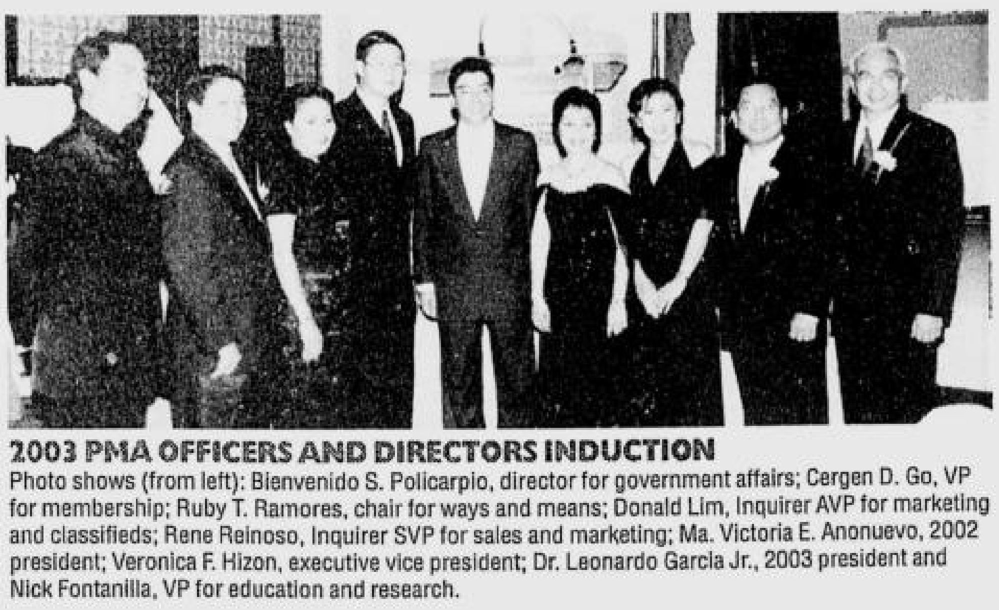
Bits Clips

Medical campaign

RESIDENTS of Malolos City can avail themselves of executive laboratory checkups when the Barasoain Lions Club holds its yearly "Lingap Kalusugan 2003" on Feb. 22 and 23 at the KB Gymnasium, Malolos Capitol Grounds, Malolos City, Bulacan. Now on its 26th year, the preventive health campaign is among the pioneering projects of Barasoain Lions. For P200 each, participants undergo an electrocardiogram, diagnostic tests for blood sugar levels, for diabetes, lab workout for blood urea nitrogen for any kidney diseases and uremia, uric acid, for arthritis and gout, SGPT for hepatitis and cirrhosis of the liver, complete blood count, for anemia and leukemia, and urinalysis.

AIM alumni homecoming

THE 2003 Alumni Homecoming of the Asian Institute of Management will be held on March 7 at the Greenbelt 3 Lagoon Area, Ayala Center, Makati City. A campaign is ongoing to update alumni records for the issuance of homecoming invitations. Please get in touch with Daycee Salimbagat and Ciel Uy at the Alumni Association of AIM through trunkline 750-1010 locals 2103-2106, or e-mail alumni@aimalumniphil.org.



2003 PMA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS INDUCTION

Photo shows (from left): Bienvenido S. Policarpio, director for government affairs; Cergen D. Go, VP for membership; Ruby T. Ramores, chair for ways and means; Donald Lim, Inquirer AVP for marketing and classifieds; Rene Reinoso, Inquirer SVP for sales and marketing; Ma. Victoria E. Anonuevo, 2002 president; Veronica F. Hizon, executive vice president; Dr. Leonardo Garcia Jr., 2003 president and Nick Fontanilla, VP for education and research.

Nestle Waters Dips into Project Wet

NESTLE Waters through Project Wet International, has awarded the Center for Environmental Education and Awareness (CEAE) with a grant that facilitates and promotes awareness, appreciation, knowledge and stewardship of water resource through the development and discrimination of classroom-ready teaching aids.

Nestle Waters, a firm believer in water education, has been actively supporting water education in the United States. The support has been extended to Mexico and the Philippines, through Project Wet workshops.

According to CEAE executive director Jukka Holopainen, Project Wet was created to meet the needs of every environmental educator who wants to use water as a resource for learning.

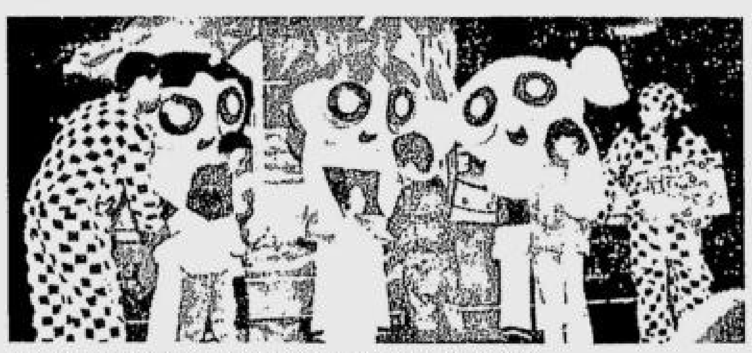
Holopainen said the project entails teaching teachers how to incorporate environmental education in their daily lesson plan. Project Wet has a Curriculum and Activity Guide - a collection of over 90 innovative, interdisciplinary activities - that are hands-on, easy to use, and fun. Designed with a commitment to global education standards, Project Wet activities cover diverse topics and disciplines.

"A grassroots environmental education campaign is solely needed if there is to be any hope for sustainable development. Successful advocacy requires a population with a high degree of environmental awareness. This is best done from an early age," Holopainen said.

According to Nestle Waters Philippines president Olivier Passicos, the grant awarded to CEAE is consistent with the company's vision to protect natural water resources, to preserve their long-term quality, and to make them more accessible.

"We share the view that for us to come up with a sustainable effort to preserve and protect our water resources, it should be grounded on education. We have to stress the importance of our environment while children are still in school so they will grow up keeping this value for the environment constantly in mind," Passicos said.

Nestle Waters Philippines locally produces Hidden Springs Natural Mineral Water and Nestle Pure Life and markets international water brands Perrier and Vittel.



POWERPUFF POWWOW AT GLORIETTA

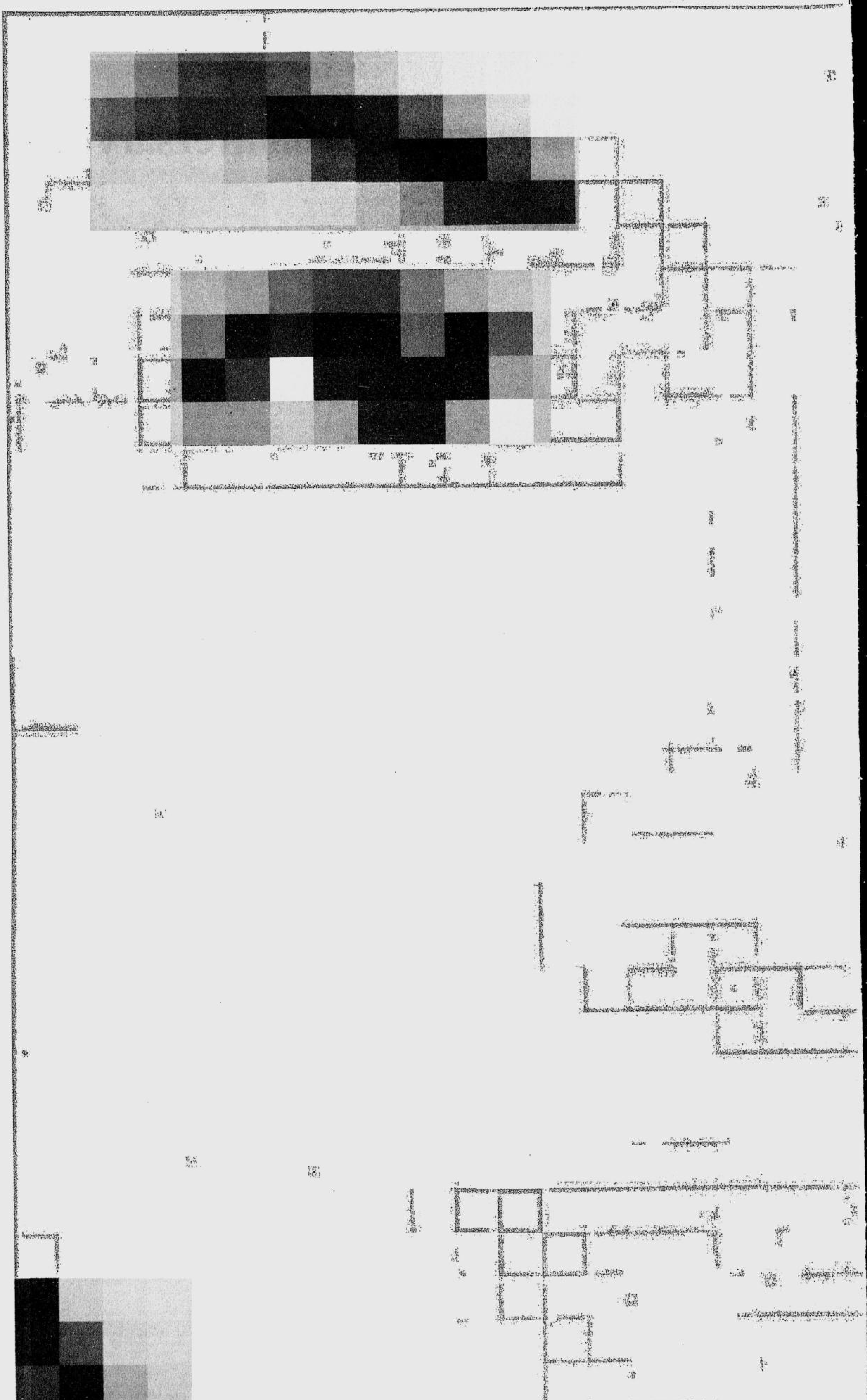
The Ayala Malls will treat kids to the Powerpuff Girls' Saving the World before Bedtime Musical. Watch the Powerpuff Girls as they stop Mojo Jojo in another one of his evil plots against Townsville. The musical kicks off at the Ayala Center Makati Feb. 22 and 23 at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. The musical then moves to Ayala Center Cebu on Feb. 28 at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., March 1 at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and March 2 at 11:30 a.m., 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Meet and greet happens 45 minutes after every show.

MEET ELMO IN PERSON

The furry, giggly and red monster Elmo who has been a literary inspiration to the young and young at heart everywhere, is now in Manila to celebrate his birthday and to share the romance of Valentine's. Coinciding with Elmo's birthday bash are Elmo's Furry Valentine promo activities that is ongoing until Feb. 28. For every purchase receipt of P300 Sesame Street merchandise, consumers will get an Elmo Stationery. Meet and greet Elmo at SM Bacoor at Feb. 22 and SM Megamall at Feb. 23.

Free AutoCAD seminar

APTECH Manila Center is giving a series of free comprehensive seminars on AutoCAD 2002. AutoCAD is not an exclusive drafting tool for architects and draftsmen but a perfect design software for other creative individuals as well. With its 17-year industry presence and 2,449 branches worldwide, Aptech has all the capabilities. Aptech Manila Center has forged ties with software manufacturer Autodesk Singapore, one of the world's leading digital design and content companies. Aptech Manila Center is offering a 25-percent discount to all enrollees. Call 736-2134 to 35 for more details.



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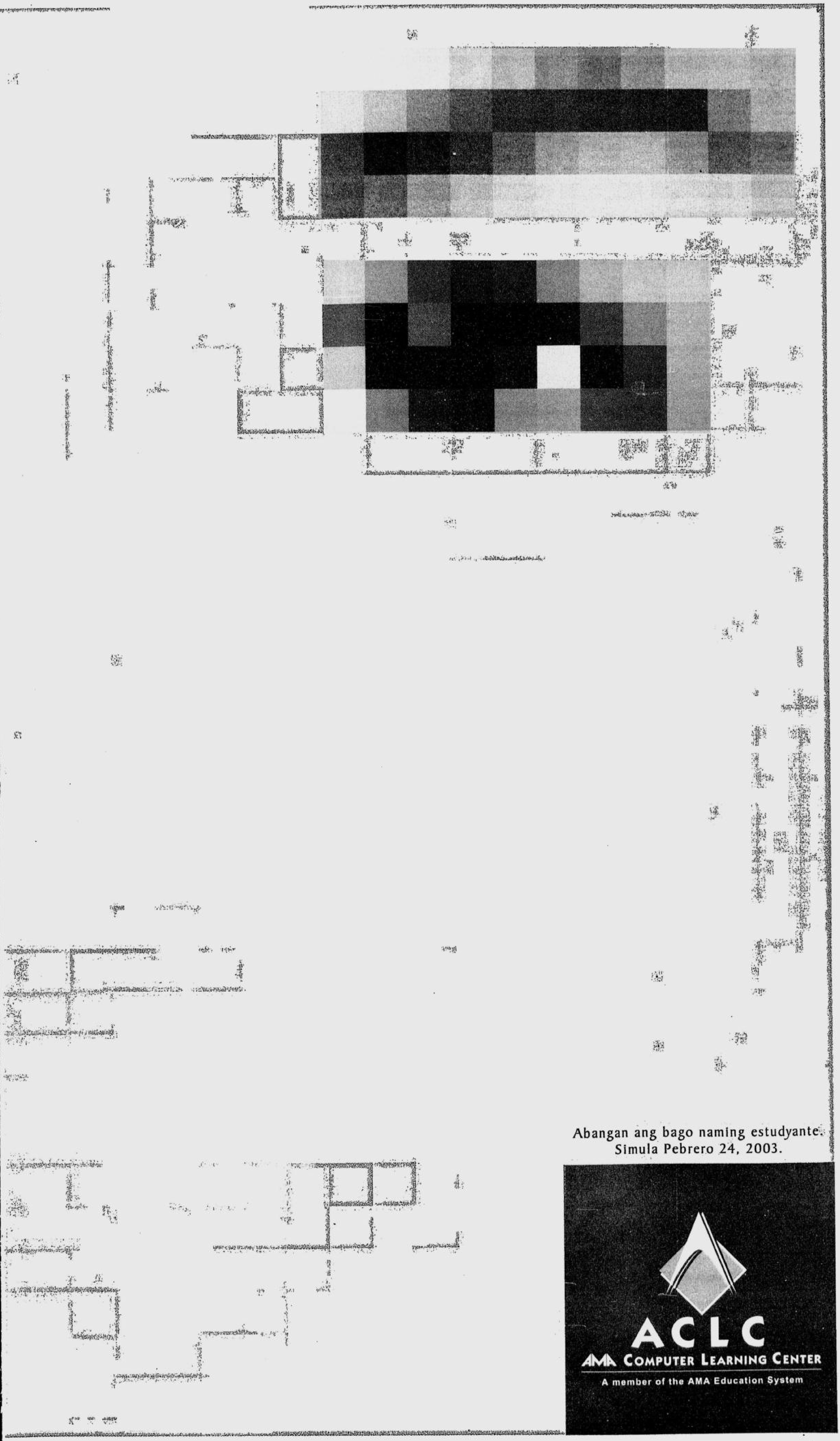

Abangan ang bago naming estudyante.
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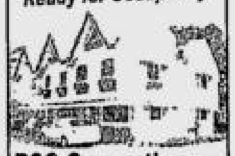

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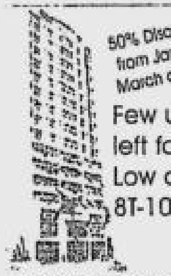

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Nr SM CITY P4500 9271821

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53 GOV PASCUAL WHSE 3610652

ROOM & BOARD

New Ladies Dorm U-Belt Mla Accept Reviewees T-6810992

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KIA

CERES AL-VAN '95 734-2503/04

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SPORTSMAN Runing condition 98T neg. 272-7813

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'00 Frntier P455 09177943168

'99 TERRANO 73Tkms P480T 0918-9024815

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2001 GRAND VITARA V6 2.5L P915K Neg Tel#8132083

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L300 T7411356

MARIAN 8969956 CARS CSTER VANS BRDAL

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

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1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 6560140

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2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

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★FASTCARLOAN 3735851/52★

Pay-Off Bank Bal 7127988

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BILLIARDS

BILLIARDS P33/36/38T A1 Qlty Bnew 8014494/8020566

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EGGS CHICKS HENS STAGS TRIO 81K-1ST KAMUNING QC

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ELITE PIANO CENTER
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DALMATIAN PUPS 8905885

DOG TRAINER 4528681

DOG TRAINER 4528681

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BEAUTY CONSULTANT 527-1590

DomesticHelper,Beautician 8432596

F-ESCORT 0916-4044479

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HRDSTF MONA 09172507143

MERCHANDISERS 527-1590

Ofc Staff 09186532375Ms.Mer

OFC STAFF 18-45 M/F Coll. Grad/ Level w/-or w/ o exp Call SHIE # 437-0454

Ofc Staff/HRD Start ASAP w/ w/o exp 7279971 Mr. Bean

OFC STF 09208090709 ADRIL

OFFICE STAFF 09192535623 GLENDA

SR / JR Stylist Reflex / Facial 4 Salon/Spa Pasig 645-2231

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that S2 LICENSE NO. 4254R002655 issued to DR. RICARDO L. JOCSON on March 21,2000.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late WENCESLAO C. MALLARI has been extrajudicially settled with waiver of share among his heirs as per Doc. 902, Page 181, Book VII, Series of 2003, before Atty. Ricardo Q. Bundalian, Notary Public, Paranaque City.
(PDI-Feb.15,22&Mar.1, 2003)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY
O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.) NDR

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INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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CUBAO
912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)
MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370
KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342
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P15K each

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with or without experience
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Job Opening

Cad Operator/ Draftsman

Male/Female: Preferably near Cainta, Cubao, Antipolo, Marikina and Taytay

Call: 645-7130/ 240-0396

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to notify the public that
LIFE SOURCE MANPOWER SERVICES
under the proprietorship of
Albert L. Zarate, M.D. is applying
for license at POEA.
The following are its officers:
Albert L. Zarate, M.D. - President
Katrina G. Dado - Admin. Dir.
Charmaine D. Ocampo - Operations Mgr.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT 4
QMMC Compound, Project 4, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Center for Health Development No. 4, QMMC Compound, Project 4, Quezon City, will conduct Public Bidding on the following schedule:

PRE-BID CONFERENCE	
A. DRUGS & MEDICINES	– March 3, 2003; 10:00 A.M.
B. MEDICAL SUPPLIES	– March 4, 2003; 10:00 A.M.
C. OFFICE SUPPLIES, PURIFIED DRINKING WATER, JANITORIAL & SECURITY SERVICES	– March 4, 2003; 2:00 P.M.
(Note: Attendance to the pre-bid conference is a requirement in joining the bidding.)	
BIDDING PROPER	
A. DRUGS & MEDICINES	– March 24, 2003; 10:00 A.M.
B. MEDICAL SUPPLIES	– March 25, 2003, 10:00 A.M.
C. OFFICE SUPPLIES	– March 26, 2003, 10:00 A.M.
D. PURIFIED DRINKING WATER	– March 27, 2003; 10:00 A.M.
E. JANITORIAL & SECURITY SERVICES	– September 15, 2003, 10:00 A.M. (Tentative)

For further inquiries, please contact Mr. Moises A. Peralta, Jr - Supply Officer III with Tel Nos 913-88-95 & 913-45-27.

(Sgd.) ROSARIO H. FAMARAN, MD, MPH
Director IV

(PDI–Feb. 22, 2003)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID
AD NO. PD2003-02

Opening Date:	**February 28, 2003**	**- 9:00 A.M.**
Pre-Bid Conference:	**February 20, 2003**	**- 2:00 P.M.**
E-Bidding Date:	**March 11, 2003**	**- 2:00 P.M.**

SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THE GENERAL RENOVATION / IMPROVEMENT OF EMAN BEACH BUILDING LOCATED AT EMAN BEACH, BNPP COMPLEX, MORONG, BATAAN	P 2,174,591.63

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **February 13, 2003** at the Accreditation, Bidding & IT Services, Procurement & Contracting Division, Materials Management Department upon payment of P50.00 per schedule which is non-refundable & presentation of **TIN / supplier number (DCE).**

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 A.M. For inquiries, please call no. 921-25-74. Last day of issuance of bidding documents **February 25, 2003.**

Bidder is oblige to participate in e-bidding. Failure to do so will be a sufficient ground for disqualification.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI--Feb. 21 & 22, 2003)

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Teatro Aguinaldo, Camp Aguinaldo
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With performances by:
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JAI SABAS-ARACAMA
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LISA MACUJA-ELIZALDE
JAY VALENCIA-GLORIOSO
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RIKKI KWEK
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MEL TIANGCO
KITCHIE MOLINA-VALDELLON
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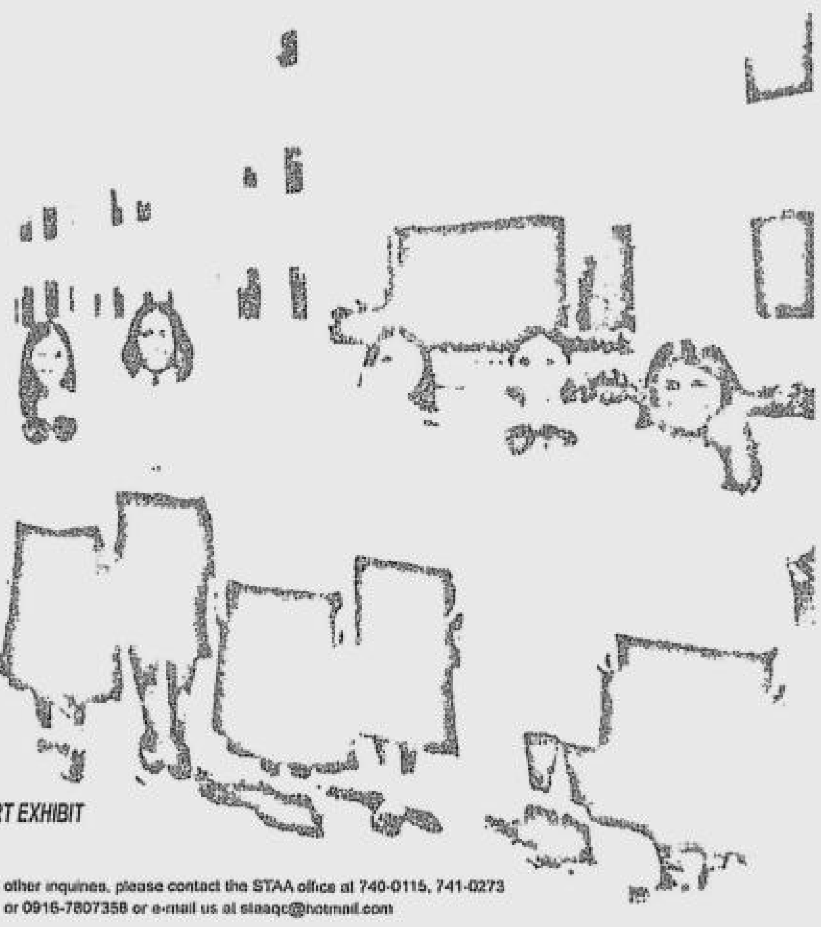
JEANNE YOUNG
and LEO MARTINEZ



THEATER LOBBY OPENS AT 6PM FOR THE ART EXHIBIT
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JOBZ resumé central AT Onstage GREENBELT

On **February 24 and 25, 2003**, the INQUIRER's **JOB MARKET** will host "**JOBZ Resumé Central**" at OnStage, Greenbelt.

It's a two-day activity geared at gathering and collecting resumés with the aim of building a database of possible applicants for **JOB MARKET** advertisers to further make their hunt for the right applicant seem almost effortless.

Aside from that, you may also enter your resumé directly into the computers and be part of our Resumé Reserve databank.

For inquiries, please contact 635-0219/899-4427/912-9008/811-4361/528-0213.

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in memory of our love ones
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687-5250 / 687-5660

The Board of Directors,
Management
and Staff of Fuego Development
Corporation (FDC)
and Fuego Land Corporation (FLC),
join the family of its
FDC Chairman
and FLC Vice-Chairman

EDUARDO JOSE O. ROXAS

in praying for
the eternal repose
of his soul.

"I am just - let me see your face when I awake,
let me be filled with your presence..." — **Psalm 17:15**

Ma. Elena "Lynn" Aragon Rayala

Now peacefully rests in the infinite grace and goodness of the Lord
on the 20th of February 2003 at the age of 50.

Her loving husband **Jaime Q. Rayala**; daughters **Lizette**, **Loujean**; son **Jimbo** and wife **Jenny**; grandson **Miggy**; mother **Pat**; brother **Ariel**; sisters **Mindy**, **Mary Ann** and **Mary Lou**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Park, Araneta Ave., Q.C. There will be a Mass at 1p.m. at the Arlington Chapel after which her remains will be cremated at Funeraria Paz at 3 p.m. on February 25, 2003. On February 26, 2003, a 7:00 a.m. Mass would be held at St. Peters Church, Commonwealth Ave., Q.C. where her remains will finally rest in God's peace.

We've added another
dignified service to keep the memory
of your departed loved ones.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
① Copy of Death Certificate
② Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

CLASSIFIEDS

HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION
PROJECT MANAGEMENT & ACQUIRED ASSETS DISPOSITION GROUP

INVITATION TO BID

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) hereby invites offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the property described as follows:

PROJECT : **VILLA ANA MARIA SUBDIVISION**
LOCATION : RODRIGUEZ, RIZAL
DESCRIPTION : 1,417 DEVELOPED LOTS
TOTAL LOT AREA : 63,258 SQ.M.
BID PRICE : **P 158,145,000.00**

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

Acceptance of Inquiries	**February 26 & 27, 2003**
Site Inspection	**February 28, 2003**
Bidding Proper	**March 10, 2003**

All sealed bids must be in the form of bulk and cash purchase.

A bidder's bond equivalent to 10% of the total bid price in the form of cash or certified manager's/cashier's check payable to HGC will be required of all prospective bidders.

The bidder is advised to inspect the properties subject of public bidding to see for himself their actual condition. All properties are being sold on "as-is" basis. Particulars may be obtained starting **February 26, 2003** from Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC), Project Management and Acquired Assets Disposition Group at the 2nd Floor, JADE Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City or call Marichu Lazaro at tel. nos. 897-32-90/897-32-17.

Sealed bids must be received on or before 10:00 A.M., **March 10, 2003**, HGC Lobby, Ground Floor, JADE Building, 335 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Project information and other documents shall be issued only upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,500.00.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS; TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFER AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **CORAZON N. ABANGAN**
Vice President
Project Management and Acquired
Assets Disposition Group

(PDI--Feb. 21, 22 & 23, 2003)

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that the **HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION (HGC)** is offering for sale a lot located at **Brgy. Aplaya, Sta. Rosa, Laguna**, specifically described as follows:

Total lot area : **25,000 sq.m.**
Lot description : **Rawland**
Minimum selling price : **P28.750 Million**

All interested buyers are advised to inspect the property for sale to see for themselves its actual condition. Particulars may be obtained from **HGC, Project Management and Acquired Assets Disposition Group at the 2nd Floor, Jade Building, #335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City or call 897-3217/897-3290.**

(Sgd.) **CORAZON N. ABANGAN**
Vice President - Project Management
& Acquired Assets Disposition Group

(PDI - Feb. 22. 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116
Telephone Nos.: 925-4793 to 97
E-mail: emb@emb.gov.ph
Visit us at http://www.emb.gov.ph

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

on the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)** of
PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S
TANAWON GEOTHERMAL PROJECT
located in Sorsogon City, Sorsogon Province

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the **TANAWON GEOTHERMAL PROJECT** of **PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION** to attend a Public Hearing scheduled on **March 20, 2003, 1:30 pm** at the Sorsogon State College - Mini Theatre (formerly Sorsogon College of Arts and Trade), Sorsogon City.

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the aforementioned Project by the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should first register in person or by mail with the EMB at DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City c/o Reynaldo P. Alcances, EIA Division Chief or with the Environmental Management Bureau Region V (Government Regional Center, Rawis, Legaspi City) at telephone numbers (052) 482-01-97/ 482-0326/ 820-5065, prior to said hearing.

Individual and/or organizations may give their opinion in a concise position paper submitted to the EMB/ EMB Region V on or before **March 20, 2003**.

For more details, please contact the EIA Division of EMB through Ms. Elsie P. Cezar or Mr. Ernie Villalva at telephone nos. (02)920-2240 to 41.

(PDI - Feb. 22 & Mar. 1, 2003)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE

TO ALL PALAY-BASED FARMER GROUPS
LICENSED TO IMPORT RICE

BE INFORMED THAT ACTIVE PALAY-BASED FARMER GROUPS INTERESTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FARMERS-AS-IMPORTERS (FAI) PROGRAM FOR THE BALANCE OF THE FIRST QUARTER VOLUME OF 104,600 MT ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT THEIR LETTER OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE TO THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (LBP) MAIN OFFICE ON/OR BEFORE 12:00 NOON, **FEBRUARY 28, 2003.**

(Sgd.) **ARTHUR C. YAP**
NFA ADMINISTRATOR

(PDI - Feb. 22. 2003)

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG FUND) is inviting Contractors Suppliers to a public bidding for the following requirements for Y2003·

	Particulars	AGENCY BUDGET CEILING	Cost of Bid Documents (Non-Refundable)	Schedule of Pre-Bid Conference
I.	Janitorial Services	P 9,124,600.00	P 3,000.00	Feb. 25, 2003 2:00 PM
II.	Security Services	P 24,532,200.00	P 5,000.00	Feb. 26, 2003 2:00 PM
III.	Postage/ Freight Services	P 1,680,000.00	P 1,000.00	Feb. 28, 2003 9:00 AM
IV.	Preventive Maintenance for Airconditioning Units	P 899,400.00	P 500.00	Feb. 28, 2003 2:00 PM
V.	Supply and Maintenance of Ornamental (Indoor) Plants	P 775,400.00	P 500.00	Mar. 3, 2003 2:00 PM

Eligibility Requirements, Terms of Reference and Bid forms may be obtained from the Procurement Section, Task Force-General Services starting February 14, 2003.

Submission of Eligibility Requirements & opening of bids for each requirement shall be discussed during the pre-bid conference which will be conducted at the 6th Floor, Rm. 602, HDMF Multi-Purpose Hall, The Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

The HDMF reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government. Further, the HDMF assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Mr. Jose Maria M. Diaz/ Mr. Cesar V. Racoma at 811-4262, 811-4279 or visit our Corporate Website at http://pag-ibig-fund.com. or e-mail us at hdmfgpis@info.com.ph.

(Sgd.) **EMMA LINDA B. FARIA**
Senior Vice-President, Technical Support Group
Chairman, BAC-GS

(PDI - Feb. 14 & 22, 2003)

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS
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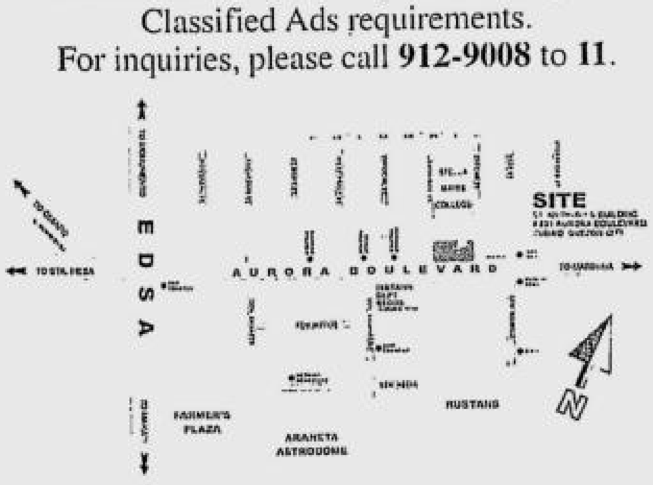
For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.



Eduardo José Roxas Olgado

entregó su alma al Creador
el dia 20 de febrero del 2003
en Makati (Filipinas)

Después de haber recibido los auxilios de la Santa Madre Iglesia

R.I.P.

Su madre Pilar Olgado, sus hermanos Pilar, Beatriz, Pedro y Marta, cuñados Juan e Ignacio; cuñada Gina; sobrinos y demás parientes, ruegan una oración en sufragio de su alma.

La misa se celebrará el sábado, 22 de febrero del 2003 a las once de la mañana en la Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio, Makati.

El entierro se efectuará seguidamente en el cementerio de la familia en el Santuario de San Antonio.

En lugar de flores se agradecería una donación al **Antonio and Eduardo Roxas Gargollo Foundation**.

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the Roxas Group of Companies
condole with the family of the late

Eduardo José Roxas Olgado

who peacefully joined his Creator
on the 20th February 2003
in Makati, Philippines

The funeral mass will take place on Saturday, 22 February 2003
11:00 A.M. at the Capilla del Señor
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati.

The interment will follow immediately after the mass at the family cemetery at the Santuario de San Antonio.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to the **Antonio and Eduardo Roxas Gargollo Foundation** would be appreciated.

GEORGE EASTMAN CUP 2002

It is not a sports contest but that doesn't mean that the level of competition for the George Eastman Cup among Kodak Express Program Members nationwide isn't as intense.

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"The standards for this year were very tough that's why the winners really deserved to win," Timmy Jayme, Marketing Operations Manager of Kodak Philippines, Ltd. said. "It is a competition where the real winners are our loyal Kodak customers who deserve nothing less than excellent service and products."

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Owe this to June's love for pictures and her staff's dedication to excellence. "I always bring 30 rolls of Kodak film when I travel. I love taking pictures and with my own Kodak Express store, I can print my own pictures too," June said.

June, whose Kodak Express store is an addition to the family corporation, admits that the George Eastman Cup is very addictive. Her determination to win and the fact that she enjoys the screening process a lot reflects her positive work attitude. Her staff is no different.

"Cooperation, discipline and hard work of the staff contributed to the win," Romela Flores, one of the cashiers, said.

Another cashier, Celiamar Dohalngon, said the drive to keep customers happy also made the difference. "*Ginagawa namin ang lahat ng puwede naming gawin para mapasaya sila sa aming* service," she said.

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And win June did.

Upon learning that she won the grand prize, June ecstatically announced it to the whole group through the paging system. She recalls how she jumped like crazy and had their victory announced in the local newspapers in Baguio. With the prize money, June plans to treat the whole group out and renovate the store. Celiamar, for her part, said she plans to buy a computer with her share of the win.

"*Para may remembrance ako na nanalo kami!*" Celiamar happily mused.

The celebration extended beyond June and her staff. "As a treat to all Baguio customers and tourists, they would get a free 5R for every roll developed or film purchased. We're really in a very celebrating mood," June enthusiastically said.

"I'm glad that Kodak has supported Sunshine Photo from the beginning and I hope they will continue to support us. I'm glad I'm with Kodak and I'm glad to be a Kodak dealer," June gratefully said.

George Eastman Cup
2002
hine Photo - Baguio
₱ 125,000.00

George Eastman Cup 2002
Grand Prize Winner
Sunshine Photo Baguio City

STEWARDS OF MEMORIES

1st Runner-up
Coronet Developing Center
Guagua, Pampanga

2nd Runner-up
Photo Z, Madison Square
Ortigas, Pasig City

3rd Runner-up
Dagupan Photo King
San Carlos City

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Aside from excellent customer service, Jeana Zabala of Dagupan Photo King said that constantly improving the store and its technology contributed to her Kodak Express Store's win.

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Share Moments. Share Life.™

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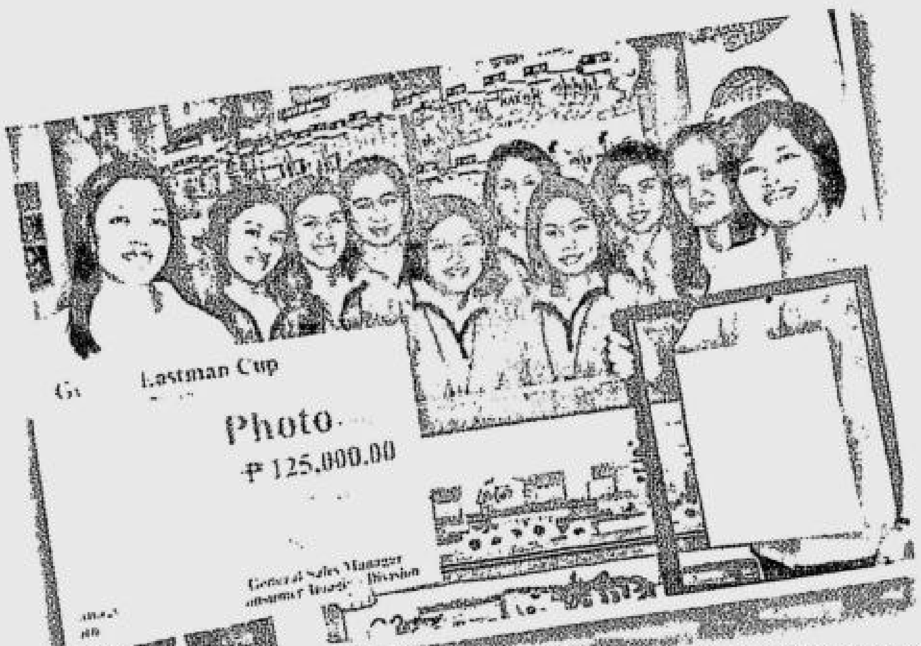

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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WHAT'S INSIDE WHAT'S INSIDE WHAT'S INSIDE

C2
Essence of Enzo

C4
To be Human is to be good

C6
Negros, with passion

C7
My kind of single

Embrace life

By Marge C. Enriquez

WHY do many people miss out on accomplishment or fulfillment in their lives?

One reason, explains life coach **Mike George**—and this might come as a surprise for some people (then again, it might not)—is that many are imitators. They copy images, whether those served up by mass media, or those that their peers do.

These omnipresent images give the illusion of a profusion of choices. In the long run, George says, the mind becomes a junkie to prefabricated patterns that society offers, and abandons the opportunity of truly evolving.

Another life strategist, **Denise Lawrence**, mentions in one of her lectures on self-mastery: "It has become customary for us to do what everybody else is doing. If people are doing it, we think it must be right. This is herd mentality."

And this, she says, compromises the mind's capability to direct its own growth. Everything that comes to the mind is a turn of creation, and once acted upon, it will have an effect on society.

Many people carry on as though everything in life were fated, or events were beyond their control. This jeopardizes idealism. In reality, our minds can create our own future and bring this vision to realization.

Creativity is credited to either inborn talent or skills developed through years of training. But did you know that the mind is the greatest workshop? We each have the capability to be creative and, therefore, completely unique in our thinking. And we are all given the opportunity to fulfill this latent talent.

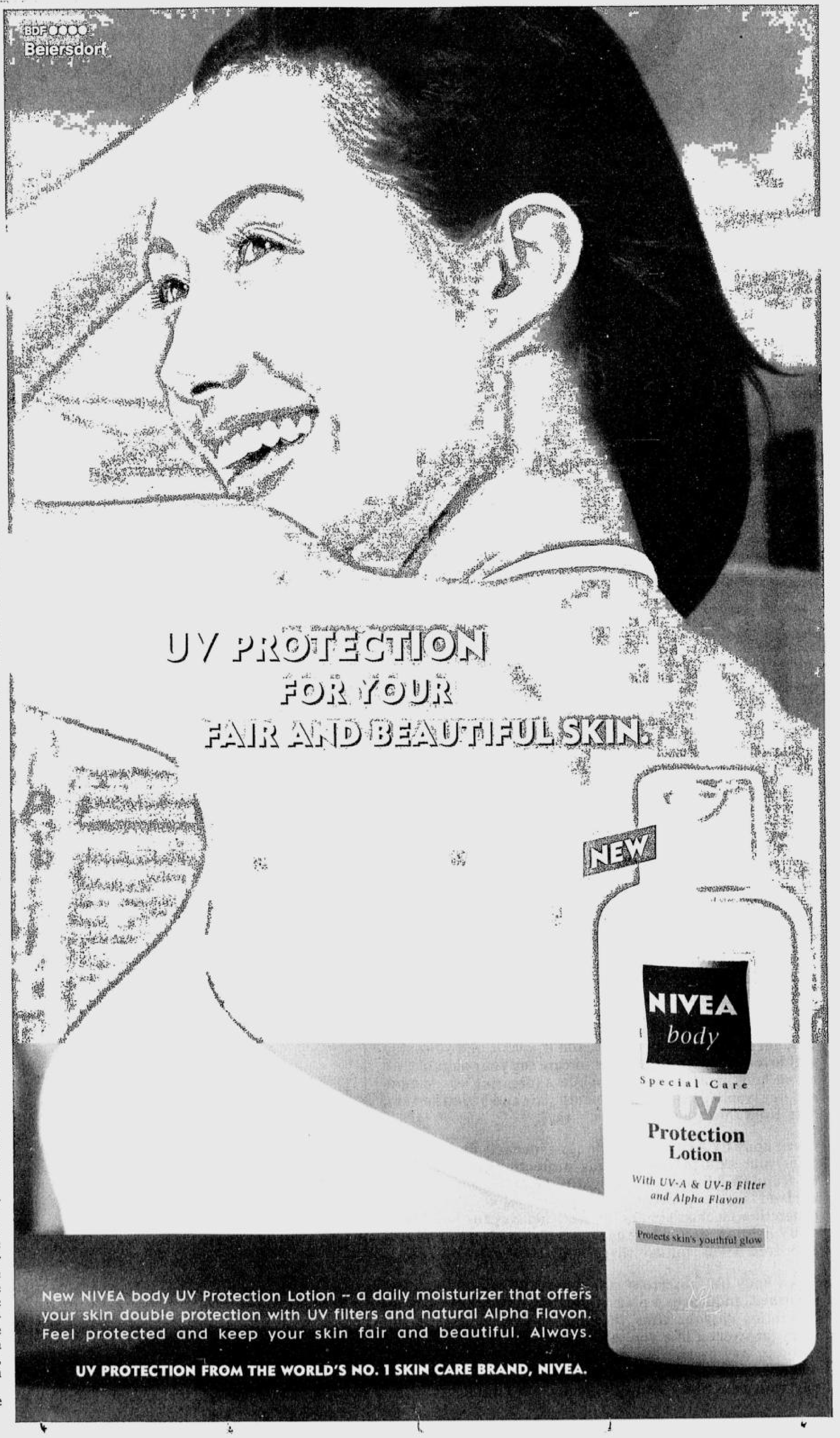
One sound and living proof is businessman-columnist **Enrique Zobel**, whose mind has proven to be his best friend. One of the best polo players in the country's history, he was paralyzed from the neck down after an accident. Despite his disability, Zobel is still widely sought after by all sectors for advice. His writings are products of constant rapport with his mind, which naturally inspires insight, a boon to the spirit. Contributor Teddy Montelibano sat down with him recently and discussed economics, politics, and current events.

In moments of solitude, Bacolod-based painter **Charlie Co** transforms his inner visions into thoughtful canvases. Artists have shown that heightened self-awareness lead to self-assurance and zeal for life.

In this context, these people offer the gift of their minds.

Elan has been putting together and publishing pictorials inspired by gems of wisdom. We flew to Batanes for our fashion shoot in this issue, with the end in view of helping regenerate the clothing brand, **Human**. It sounds like a pun: even in real life, a little common sense can certainly regenerate humans. The theme for this fashion shoot is letting go of comfort zones, and embracing new scenes in life with a sense of openness.

Embrace life just as you would these pages.



New NIVEA body UV Protection Lotion -- a daily moisturizer that offers your skin double protection with UV filters and natural Alpha Flavon. Feel protected and keep your skin fair and beautiful. Always.

UV PROTECTION FROM THE WORLD'S NO. 1 SKIN CARE BRAND, NIVEA.

The essence of Enrique zObel

ZOBEL as photographed by Rupert Jacinto for his book "Celebration of the Filipino: Portaits of an Era"

By Teddy Y. Montelibano
Contributor

HAD he known how we would start this piece on him, he would certainly protest, and vehemently. Still we must say that, in our book, Enrique Jacobo Zobel y Olgado is the last of the species called Genuine Filipino Macho.

No matter that he's strapped to a wheelchair, immobilized from the neck down as a result of a nasty fall from his polo pony Juanita over a decade ago, the man's mind remains as vital as his body once was. The story of that fall is retold often enough—he was riding back to the stables from the polo fields of Sotogrande, the family's estate resort in Spain—to make it seem like only yesterday.

Still very much evident during Elan's visit are shades of the iconoclast that he was during his heyday as the polo-playing, jet-setting but hardworking captain of the Ayala business empire from the late 1960s through the early 1980s, before grand maternal matriarch Mercedes Zobel McMicking ousted him.

EZ, or Enzo, decides to speak with us on the terrace of his expansive and tastefully appointed Castillan-inspired home. To one side from where we sat is a huge swimming pool, its azure waters gleaming under the bright afternoon sun. The house is the centerpiece of a well-maintained one-hectare property in the 661-hectare, family-developed enclave in Alabang, south of Ayala Avenue in Makati City, the country's premier financial district. A helipad sits to the right of the driveway from the gate, where a helicopter, we are told, is always ready to whisk EZ away to his beloved Hacienda Bigaa in Calatagan, Batangas.

Articulate, straightforward

Subjects of the conversation are myriad, and EZ's views on each are articulated in simple terms, whether in English or in Batangueño Tagalog, a dialect that he has been adept at since childhood. He holds back no punches—except on two instances when we ask what he thinks of two political personalities who have very publicly itched for the presidency for quite some time. "No comment," is all he says about both, as he smiles enigmatically.

If it were up to him, who would be President of the country? He doesn't seem especially enamored with the present dispensation. "*Akala mo magaling* (you would think she's good), but has she ran or managed any corporation?" It is obvious the man puts much weight on business savvy as qualification. "We need someone with a track record. Danding (San Miguel chair Eduardo Cojuangco, a childhood playmate) would be good. But he's sick of politics. *Kumpare ko yan* (he's my buddy)."

Should anyone succeed in convincing movie star Fernando Poe Jr. to run, Enzo says, the man would win, hands down. "So it's between him (Poe) and (former Senator and Education Secretary) Raul Roco, *pero si* Fernando Poe, *ayaw ng asawa* (but Poe's wife doesn't want him to run)."

In any case, he believes it will be an uphill climb for Roco, whom he knows as someone who has worked for the late Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino and for San Miguel Corporation (SMC), the mammoth food and beverage conglomerate which he (Enzo) used to be vice chair of. "Roco is good, but who will vote for him aside from his *kababayan* (provincemates)? Only the educated. The poorer class, who make up the majority, will vote for Fernando Poe, Jr. who, with Marcos money backing him, will win."

His revered late friend Aquino would have been perfect, Enzo says, even as he thinks Ninoy's wife, former President Corazon Cojuangco, Aquino (who trashed another friend of his, former President Ferdinand Marcos in the Presidential snap elections of 1986) "was just lucky."

"Poor guy got killed," he says. "He had very strong common sense. Most of the top people in this world have that."

His kind of leaders

Aside from Ninoy, others on the list of men whom he has considerable regard for include: the late Presidents Manuel Roxas and Manuel Quezon; his uncle Col. Joseph McMicking, architect of the Ayala's modern-day fortunes; Huk Supremo Luis Taruc, the old man Andres Soriano Sr., industrialist Eugenio Lopez Sr., the late Alfred Xeres Burgos, farmer-activist Jerry Montemayor, former Philippine envoy to Spain Isabel Caro Wilson, newspaper publisher Raul Locsin, Makati City Congressman, Teddyboy L. Locsin, and his best friend Luis "Tito" Yulo, gentleman farmer and scion of the Canlubang Sugar Estate.

Also on this list are former Shell Philippines top honcho Cesar Buenaventura and his younger brother, current Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura. Among the younger ones are "very bright, very well educated" lawyer Carl Miranda, Representatives Gilbert Teodoro (Tarlac) and Manny Zamora (Compostela, Davao), godson Enrique "Keng" Yulo and Tito Yulo's son-in-law, horse and cattle-breeder Martin Gomez.

These people, Enzo says, are "bright and honest," and possessed of the common sense that he requires. In his lexicon of praise, it's hard to get any higher than that.

> It is phenomenal how he manages to stay in the thick of things, mocking a mishap that has him strapped to a wheelchair

One would think he'd include his friend the Sultan of Brunei, for whom he built the 1,788-room Istana Nurul Iman, one of the world's biggest palaces and the largest private residence in the world. "He just happens to have a title," Enzo explains. "All he's got, he inherited and didn't really work for his wealth."

Still, he gamboled long and hard with the Sultan in many a polo match here and abroad. His love for horses, passion for polo, and frequent traipses around the world has afforded him a chance to meet kindred spirits in the upper class, many of whom he taught the sport. "I've met the King of Spain and all the kings and sultans of Malaysia whom I taught to play polo," he says. "I was the first Filipino mentor in that sport."

Full life at 76

EZ still flies regularly to Hawaii where he and his American wife, Dee, keeps a house and where, with some friends, he has built the 25-hectare Honolulu Polo Club. And to Sotogrande, one of southern Europe's internationally renowned resort estates, located at the foothills of Sierra Almenara, Spain, 25 kilometers east from the rock of Gibraltar. EZ says Sotogrande is 4,500 gorgeous acres of golf courses, polo fields, tennis and fronton courts, riding stables, upscale residential development and marina in the Mediterranean. It consists of five farms that Col. McMicking bought and developed in the early 1960s.

It was there in 1991, at the Santa Maria Polo Club, that EZ had his freak accident, which put an end to his active physical life—stress "physical," because as far as he is concerned, his intellectual life is far from over.

Today, at 76, his life is full, he says, if "mentally." He writes a regular column in "Businessworld," published by Raul Locsin, where he tackles a wide range of subjects, some of which we also proceed to discuss.

He speaks about absence of discipline in the Filipino, corruption in politics, apathy among the youth, and the diminished quality of education.

Over two decades ago, he observes, the country produced the best graduates in Southeast Asia. "But now," he said, "no one wants our graduates because not only do they not speak English well; they are also improperly educated."

EZ bewails the Filipino youth's apathy, manifest in their focus on "good time, the latest-model cars, the newest gadgets, and to hell with the country!"

Recently, he recounts, he asked some young people what they thought would happen to them if, overnight, the lights suddenly went out and no money could be had because the banks were closed. Their answer: "Impossible!"

Well, Enzo says, "That impossibility happened to me!"

Extraordinary

He was referring to an episode in his extraordinarily colorful life. When he was 14, Enzo was already galloping across the Manila Polo Club, playing with men several years his senior. World War II broke out and his father, Col. Jacobo Roxas Zobel, departed for the battlefront, leaving the young EZ in charge of the family.

At one point, the family's cash reserves had dried up, the family company and banks had closed down, and there was scarcely any money—or food—to be had. The 14-year-old, accompanied by the family's stable hand, went to the polo club, then located at the beachfront property that would be the site of the US Embassy, where his father's polo ponies were housed.

The boy asked the Japanese soldiers in charge for the ponies. He was brought to Fort Santiago where he was questioned while an elderly Japanese officer observed from a distance.

"Are you American?" asked his interrogator.

"No, I am not," came the terse reply.

"So why are you white?"

"Because my mother is Spanish."

Hearing this, the Japanese officer approached and asked the boy, "Are you really Spanish?"

"Yes."

"Can you come and help me practice my Spanish?"

"It depends."

The Japanese officer grinned. "You can have lunch with me every Thursday and we can both speak in Spanish."

Enzo grabbed the offer. As it turned out, the Spanish-speaking officer was the head of the dreaded Kempetai in Manila!

Thenceforth, Thursdays were spent with the Kempetai head. The rest of the week, the teenaged scion of the aristocratic house of the Zobel de Ayalas, led a group of help transformed into *cocheros*, shuttling passengers in *karetelas* from Malate to Escolta for 10 centavos per ride!

Meanwhile, Col. Jacobo Zobel, military aide to several Presidents, including Manuel Quezon, was in the Death March and later thrown into prison camp. Making full use of his powerful new friend's connections, Enzo eventually rescued his father. Col. Zobel had shrunk to less than 90 pounds, so that the boy literally carried him away to freedom.

Stream of visitors

The story is worth retelling, if only to underline the man's fearlessness and strength of character—qualities that made a veritable empire out of the family business. Alas, the same qualities would cause a rift between himself and the family matriarch and his father's younger sister, Mercedes, wife of Col. Joseph McMicking, Jr.

Among their nephews, the childless McMickings' favorite was the young EZ. Only 22 and fresh out of the University of California in Los Angeles' College of Agriculture in 1948, EZ was pulled by his uncle into the family corporation.

He started as a heavy vehicles mechanic and rose to become first managing partner of Ayala y Compania when he was only 28. In 1968, he became chair and president of Ayala Corporation at the age of 41, one of the youngest corporate honchos at the time.

Under his leadership, Ayala Corporation grew into a multi-diverse conglomerate with businesses in such sectors as banking, insurance, food production, hotel enterprises, real estate and property development.

He founded, in 1981, the formidable Makati Business Club. Two years later, he was vice chair of San Miguel Corporation. At odds with his cousin, then SMC chair Andres Soriano, EZ sold Ayala's 25 percent shares to its present chair, Eduardo Cojuangco. The move provoked Mercedes' ire, resulting in his ouster from Ayala Corp. and the handing over of the latter's reins to Jaime Zobel de Ayala.

EZ moved on to head Ayala International Properties, Inc., sealing projects that would include the building of the Istana Nurul Iman with (the late) National Artist Leandro Locsin as architect. At the same time, he devoted more time in developing his huge spread in Calatagan, Batangas, which includes Hacienda Bigaa, Punta Baluarte and Calatagan Golf & Country Club.

It is phenomenal how the man manages to stay in the thick of things. He receives a stream of visitors almost daily at his Ayala-Alabang home, among the more recent being Lucio Tan, arguably the richest Filipino-Chinese businessman in the country today. On the day we visited, he was hosting dinner for a group of military officers from the Department of National Defense and the United States Commander in Chief Pacific Command.

Never had a siesta

EZ's every single day is an exhaustive routine.

He wakes up at seven, and the entire morning is devoted to physical therapy, with faithful secretary Kim going through the paces with him. At 1 p.m. he stops for lunch. Then he goes on to read news periodicals, or meet with visitors. In the evening he may entertain guests for dinner.

"I've never had a siesta in my life," says this man whose forebears introduced the post-lunch nap to Filipino culture.

Indeed, nothing—not a nasty fall from some horse nor an impending war in Iraq—can hold down this 76-year-old macho man. Already, he has completed plans for the remainder of this year alone: travel to Europe in mid-May, back to Manila in August and leave again the following month for Hawaii, where he and Dee will stay until after Christmas.

"Oh, yeah," he flashes a wide grin as we stand up to thank him for his time and to bid him goodbye. "No problem, no problem at all!"

We throw him a last question: Is there anything at all that he regrets having done?

For a moment there, EZ looks lost. What, in heaven's name, are we talking about? But he quickly comes around. "Regrets? Definitely none."

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ADVT.

Parody dissipates paranoia

By Bea P. Valdes
Contributor

CHRONICLERS of our time called us "Degeneration X."

We were cocooned in an ever-expanding megalopolis, where life jumped from punch line to punch line, in search of our own Hollywood ending. In this cosmopolitanism, organized religion was going the way of the Dodo; the last forms of spiritual creative forces teetered on the brink of extinction.

"May the force be with you," we said, as we winked at each other. In a recent census in Britain, 90 percent of the respondents who ticked off the "Others" box under the heading of "Belief" proclaimed they were "Jedis." This accounted for 490,000 people laughingly professing their faith in sync with the imagination of George Lucas.

In celluloid "Star Wars," we played the happy voyeurs, the silent chorus. Within the boundaries of Movies, there was no ambiguity between good and evil, no real collective allusion with which to galvanize experience—nothing to elevate us from bumper sticker to philosophy.

The events of Sept. 11 and the consequent impending war changed all that. Osama Bin Laden is at the center of the world's most expensive manhunt. In our inability to pinpoint his location, we are apparently doomed to a representational purgatory. Our apocalyptic anxiety is propelled by the fact that his specter looms; his image is at once present and absent, in videotapes, in snippets of reported information, in recent speeches. As a French philosopher noted: "Bluff and information serve as aphrodisiacs to war."

There is nothing funny about war. In this very real one that we are facing, we can't hit the panic button and make it stop. Instead, to diffuse the tension, we run to humor. Parody dissipates paranoia. And humor, appropriately used, does not exactly trivialize it. Instead humor is a sacred tool by which we rediscover the heart of our humanity within its grim confines.

Icon in the Magic Kingdom

For four years, my brother worked in Disneyworld, Orlando. And, though it tickles my sisters and I to propagate the lie, he did not collect paychecks for services rendered as a mascot.

Mascots, as he explains, are a select breed, stars with a plum role in the cast of Disney characters. They rank high on the salary ladder of non-management employees, basically compensated for "combat duties." That's right, combat duties. The Magic Kingdom is hostile territory if you happen to be a fluffy icon of childhood dreams. Not only do they endure incredible, sweltering temperatures inside their gear; mascots are routinely battered, often pulled, prodded, occasionally poked, constantly hugged, seasonally mobbed, grabbed, whacked and kicked (sometimes with a running start) by children of all ages.

Their contract states that under no circumstances are they to talk, yell or launch defensives.

Aside from his regular schedule, my brother spent his weekends tutoring local students. Immediately after 9-11, he e-mailed us from his little alcove in Florida. Below is an account of the mood near the Magic Kingdom around that time:

Twisted fate

"If you haven't already heard, anthrax now threatens the realm of Florida. As if dwindling tourism and the danger of falling planes were not enough; I now have to contend with extreme paranoia every time I sneeze. Apparently, someone just died here due to a man-made concentration of the rare disease. It was sent to his office enclosed in a Jennifer Lopez love letter. No joke. Talk about bioterrorism disguised in a bombshell!

"Teaching is as fulfilling as it gets given that I have a class of a dozen 16-year-olds who would rather be at home watching "Dawson's Creek" and contemplating their acne, instead of trying to recall what the surface of a cube is. Now I know why the good Lord Jesus was foremost a fisherman and a carpenter and a teacher only in his off-hours. The gospels would have read a bit different if He was quoted as reprimanding: "No, no, no! Two loaves and five fish divided by 5,000 people does not result in an integer!"

Weather is changing, and getting chilly in the mornings. Last night when I came home, I was actually shivering. But the general atmosphere here is pretty much like everywhere else, which is to say bleak. People are very scared actually, and everyone seems nervous. I was in the airport the other day and it felt like martial law. When lightning cracks like this, people get laid off, stores close, CNN prompts a special report, security is put on DEFCON three, David Letterman gets all serious, and Church becomes fashionable again.

"The irony is that our appointed enemies suffer no such drawbacks during times of war. Tomahawk missiles (which cost more that Hollywood movies, and are a lot smarter) could rain into the heart of Kabul, and I don't think it will crash their stock market. Can you imagine a Taliban cleric bemoaning the devaluation of his blue chip stock portfolio? Or security at their airports asking repeatedly:" Are you *sure* no one else packed your luggage?"

"I sincerely hope we are headed for better times, which inspire less comedy at the expense of our humanity. Tell everyone that I lôve them. And if I ever contract Anthrax, I will be sending a Jennifer Lopez postcard to you all."

> There is nothing funny about war. In this very real one that we are facing, we can't hit the panic button and make it stop. Instead, to diffuse the tension, we run to humor

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RADICAL HIGHLIGHTS

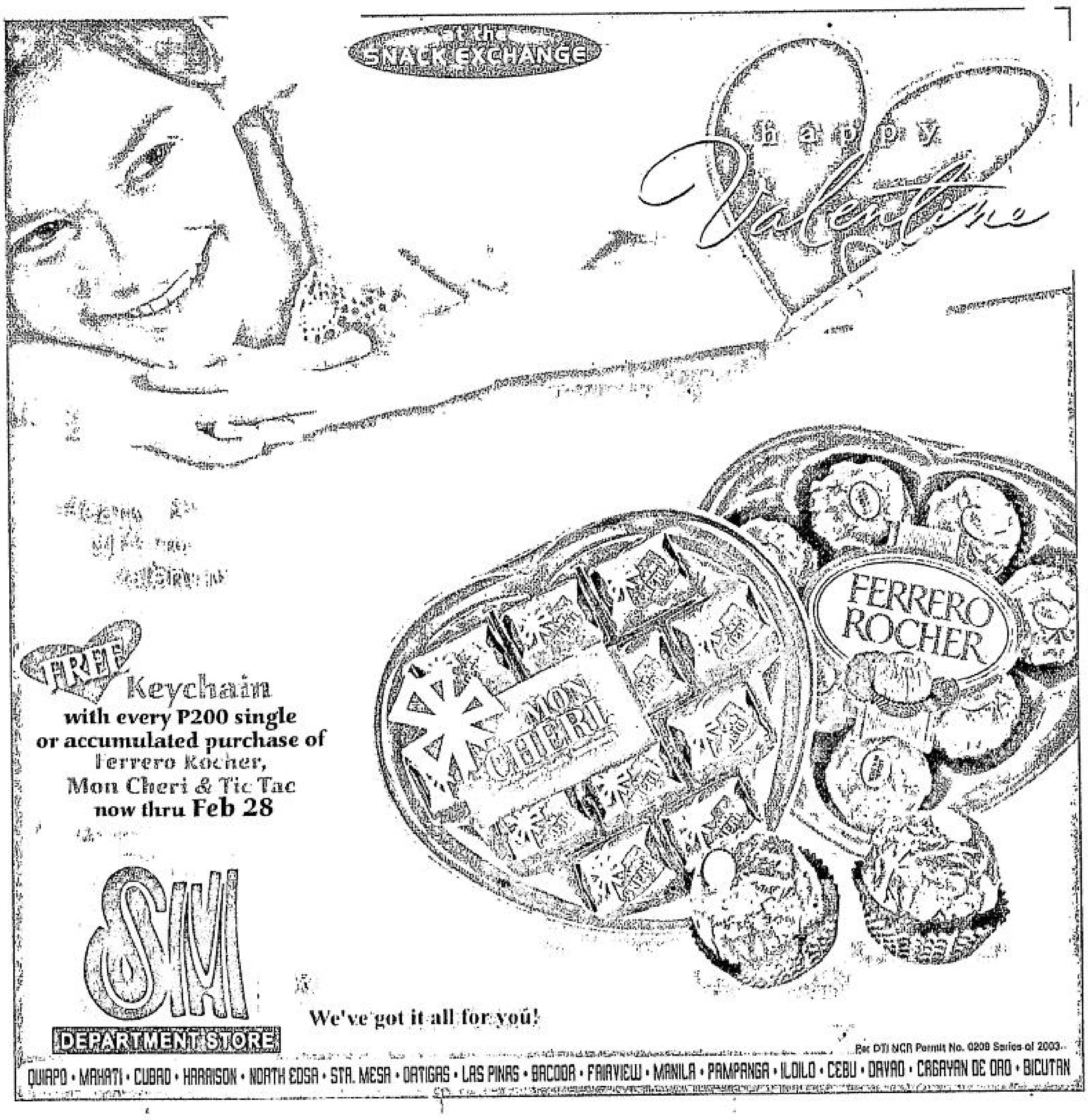
DAWN Zulueta-Lagdameo's shaggy bob is by Franck Provost consultant Romain Bely. The 23-year-old Frenchman was trained in Paris and London before coming to Manila last year. It takes a lot of courage to chop off one's hair. The once long-haired Dawn did it gradually. For effect, Romain did some radical highlighting, with streaks only on the crown. Celebrity stylist and makeup artist Angelo Justin created two looks for Dawn—one natural, the other dramatic.

Franck Provost is one of the most snobbish salons in town. This is where Manila's Who's Who get de-stressed, with hairdressing services by seasoned pros, plus Darphin facials and rubdowns done by a Hong Kong-trained masseuse.

PHOTOS BY JAY JAVIER
LOCATION: PENINSULA MANILA

Dawn goes dramatic in the redux of the '60s winged eye shadow and liner

ANGELO Justin and Romain Bely with Franck Provost's Baby Cruz



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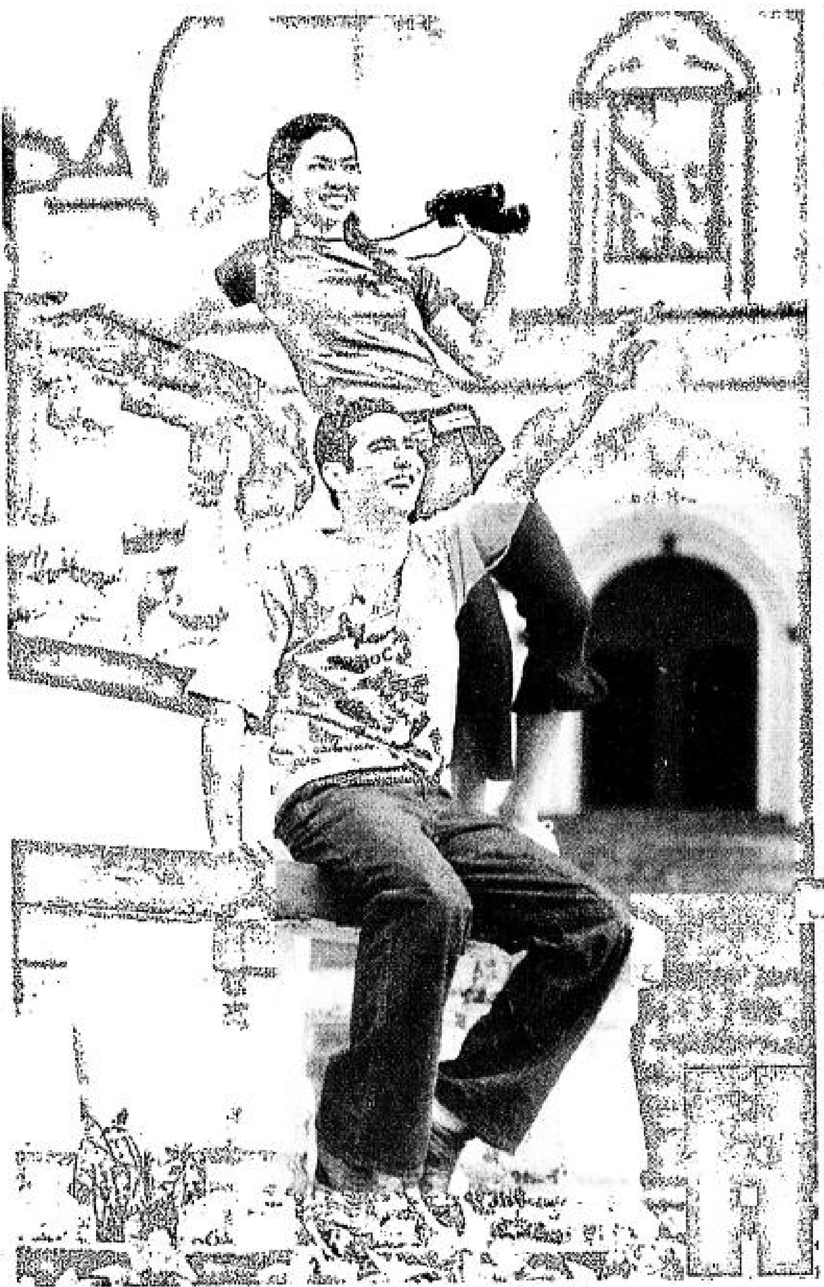
To be human is to be good



Watching life from the vantage point of an observer enables me to understand events more clearly

FROM a distance. At San Jose Church, Batanes.On Claire: a phosphorous shirt with princess print,Green canvas belt, cut-off denims with ruffled hems. On Saq: graphic blue music shirt, ash blue desert palm print long-sleeved polo and contoured denim

When my inner landscape is full of beautiful thoughts, everything I do is a pleasure

THE HILLS are alive. On Clare: sky blue, fringed stretched sleeveless shirt and red-and-white layered skirt over white prairie skirt. On Saq: white printed shirt,contoured denim and red canvas belt

To be a rock for others, I need to remain on solid ground

ON A bicycle built for two. On Clare: white fruit lady shirt and black-and-white sandlasted striped clam pants. On Saq: a Some Like It Hot shirt, a light blue inner shirt and classic denim pants

A light approach to life enables me to take things in stride

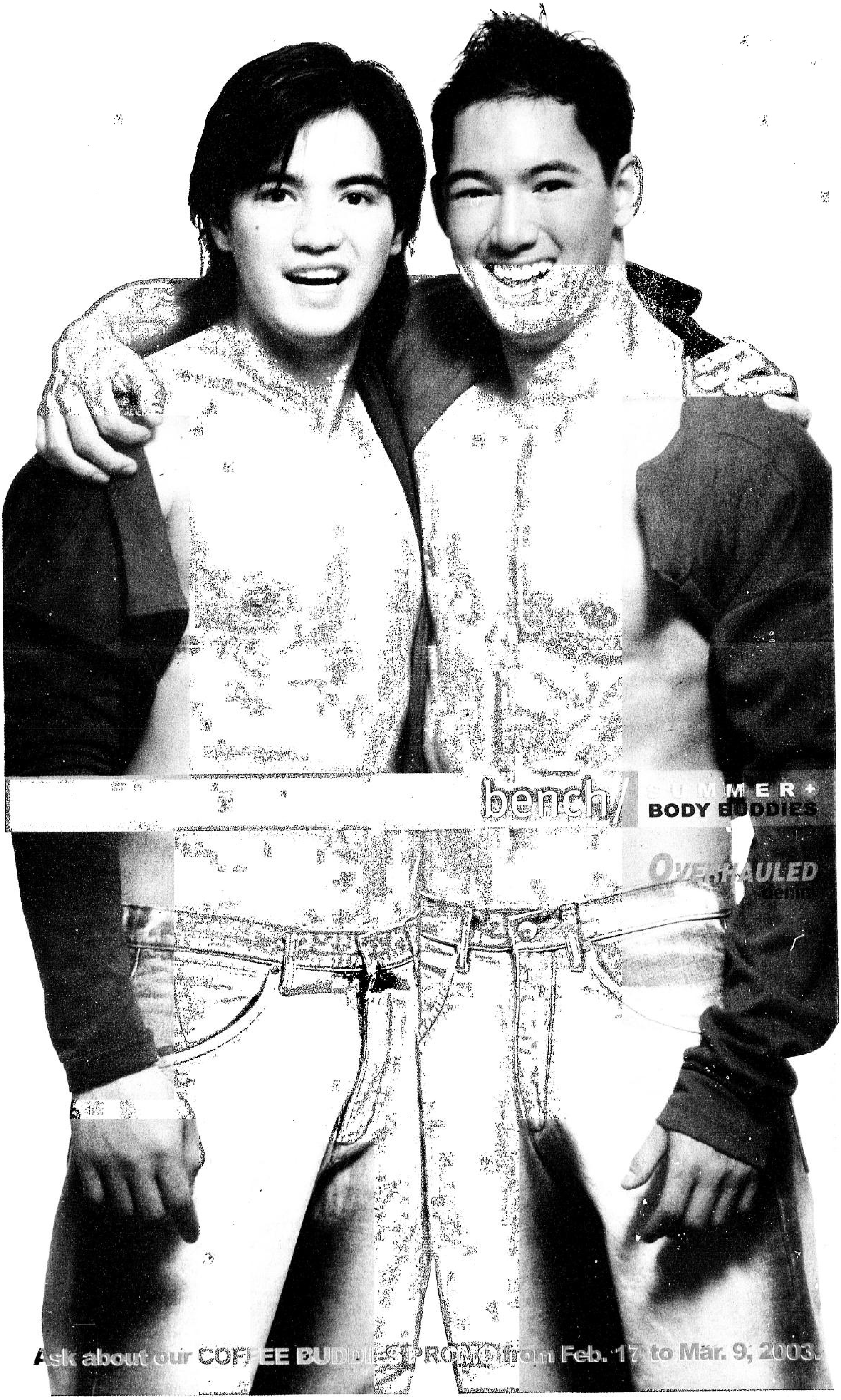
Photos by Wig Tysmans
Pictorial direction by
Antonio Salac Santos

CLOTHES: HUMAN
MODELS: CLAIRE HONRADE, CAL CARRIES, SAQ IMRAN
STYLING: NOEL MANAPAT
HAIR AND MAKEUP: PEDDY ACEBO
WIG TYSMANS' ASSISTANTS: JAY JAVIER AND REVELINDO BERI
LOCATION: BATANES
SPECIAL THANKS: REP. BUTCH ABAD, GOV. VICENTE GATO, JULIET CATALUÑA, NOLI GABILO, ALEN MOJICA, JOJO LIAMSON
ELAN TEAM STAYED AT THE BATANES RESORT
(AIR PHILIPPINES FLIES TO BATANES EVERY MONDAY, THURSDAY AND SATURDAY, TEL. 841-8888)

SIXTEEN going on seventeen. At San Carlos Church, Mahatao, Batanes. More of the same—graphic tees and loose pants

Remaining open to life, with its constant adventures, is the way to reach my full potential

CLIMB every mountain. On Clare: red, black and white layered skirt worn as tube dress and red keyiffeh worn as belt; On Saq: ash blue, floral long-sleeved shirt and denim pants with H stitching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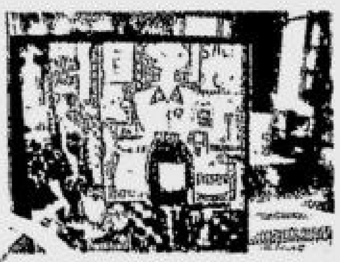
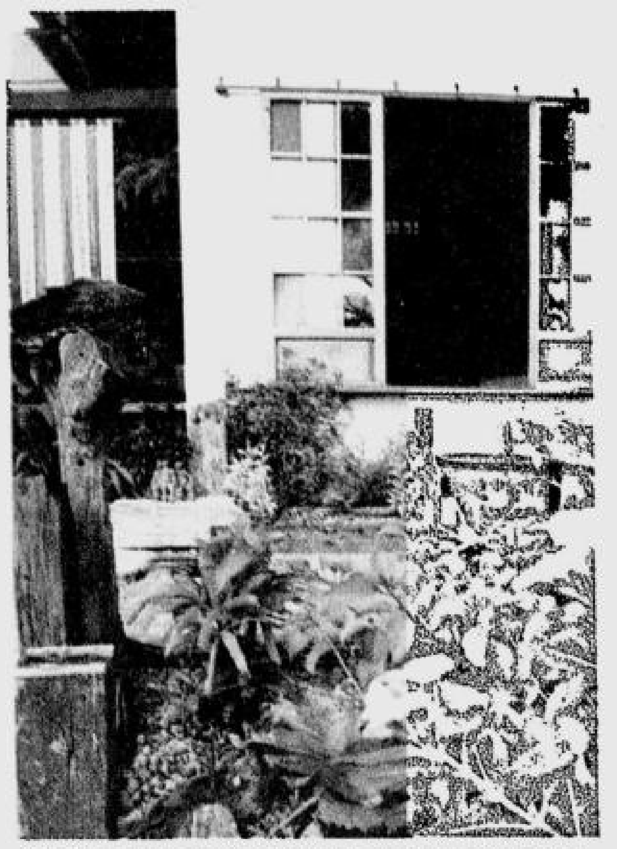

CO'S take on the Material Girl caught up in consumerist values.

WOODEN antiques and furniture designed the artist's brother lend warmth to the earth-toned color scheme


ANTIQUE French window was made new with colored glass planes.

Negrense artist Charlie Co creates pieces that are constant reminders of life in his hometown

By Adrian V. Lizares
Contributor
Photographs by Chito Vecina
Pictorial Direction by Albert Avellana

WHEN we first met Charlie Co in 1979, his artwork reflected the plight of the very common man in Negros' feudalistic society. Even now, his chosen genre, social realism, delves into current events and socio-political concerns. His manner of expression, surrealism, is invoked by his visions. His messages are quite strongly stated.

The interest this artist has generated among art enthusiasts has been consistent, and many private individuals, including exponential art institutions around Asia like the Fukuoka Museum have his works among their recent acquisitions. He had a recent one-man show at the Rey Hughes Gallery in Sydney.

Reminders of life

At the beginning of this conversation, Co is reticent, and so I decide to drop pen and paper and instead engage in a light banter with him and his wife Anne Legaspi, is a native of Silay City, where the artist's new studio is located.

As a full-time artist, he creates images that are constant reminders of his life and the province's surroundings. Yes, in itself, Negros Island is a wonderful source of inspiration, indeed. But the scenery that unfolds before us today consists of the many stories that Charlie has translated into the two-dimensional narratives.

Viewing his work, I recognize cultural stereotypes. This makes me laugh, for in his parody I see many people whom I intimately know. Greed, Pain, Decay, and Arrogance, are eloquently expressed on canvas, in an amazing spectrum of color.

The new studio is really an extension of the previous one where the artist still works. The extension was built, in part, for the entertainment of friends, guests, and perhaps some serious clients. Lately, the new "wing" has morphed into an artists' venue, with foreign painters as well as our own, coming to visit, work and, well, live! An separate structure for more visiting artists and other friends is on the drawing board. The first expected occupant is Australian artist Tony Twigg.

The venue is the message

A famous writer living in an Italian villa holds intimate live-in "literary" parties that go on through the summer months, but some participants in this glamorous affairs produce nary but two pages! But the host does not believe output should be the sole indication of success or failure. For him, the more important result is the interaction of minds. When everyone manages to be at their sharpest and wittiest during those lengthy conversations over dinner, who cares about writing, indeed?

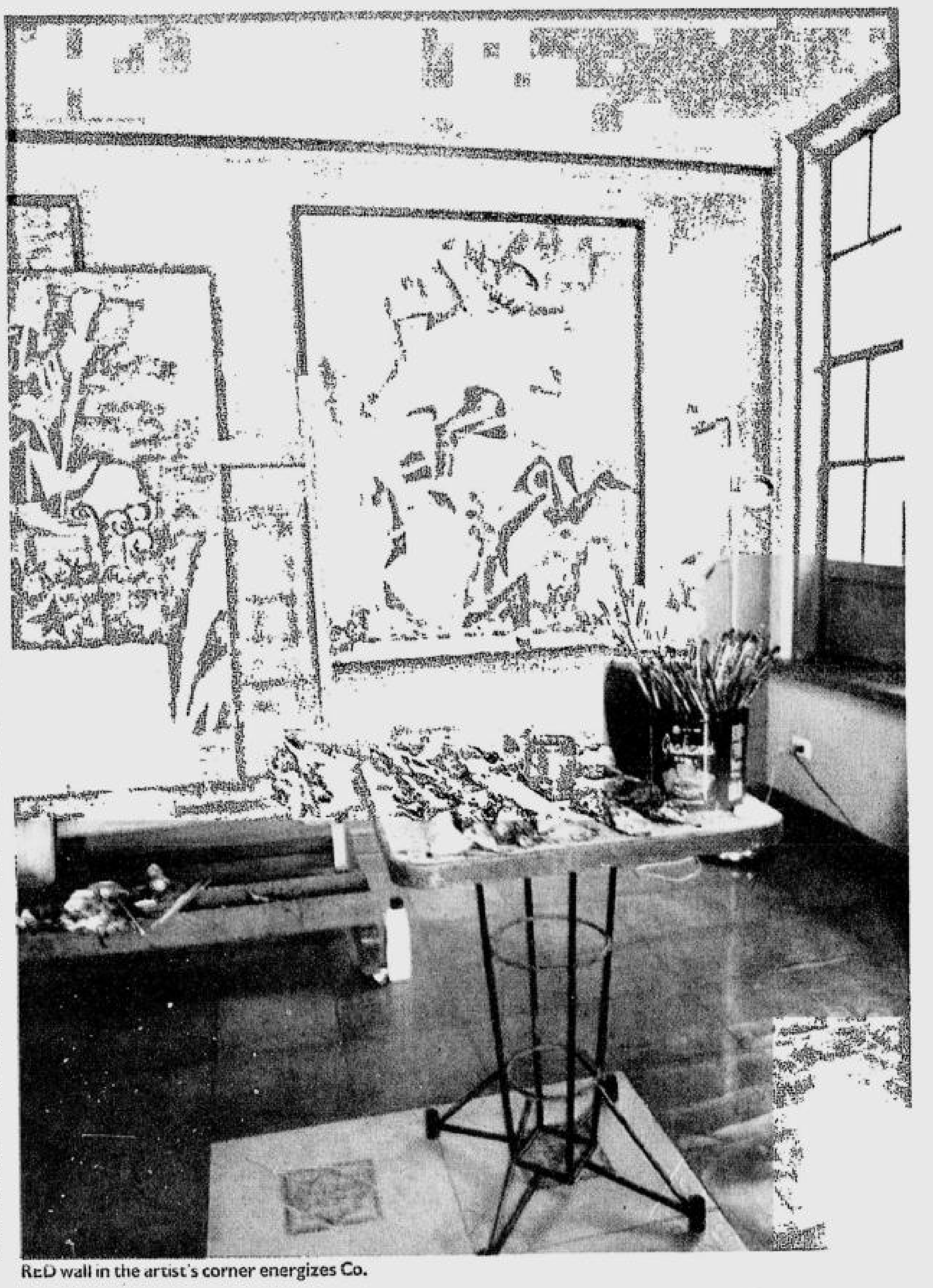
Anne's brother, an architect, has designed the couple's house with elements acquired prior to the construction. These include *balayong* window panels with colored glass panes, a staircase made of the same wood from a vintage house, weathered hardwood culled from forays into the other islands around Negros.

He paints while she bakes cakes and pastries, a genteel art prevalent in Silay. Yes, good food is a trademark of this city; ask anyone who knew the late Doreen G. Fernandez, another famous local.

Around the studio are pieces by other artists. Carved wooden pieces depicting rural scenes, and fantastically shaped domestic animals, were "finds" from the town plaza. (Folk art at its best—so we thought we'd track down the craftsman later—and we did!) Another installation is a sculpture of a horse made of wood and found metal objects by Tootsie Co, Charlie's young nephew.

Charlie draws my attention to a shed where he is working on a *"carroza,"* which will be the centerpiece of his December 2003 installation in a milestone exhibit of the group Black Artists of Asia—four Negrense artists including himself.

In a moment of candor, I ask his opinion on art galleries in shopping mall. Charlie shrugs and says: "It is a vehicle we could all use to reach the widest spectrum of people." An exhibition of his latest pieces opens March 6 at the Galleria Duemila, at SM Megamall's Art Walk.


RED wall in the artist's corner energizes Co.

A Wine Library

VINTAGE wines. (From left) Chateau Cos D's Estornel (1949), Chateau Lync-Bages (1961), Chateau D' Yquiem (1963) and Chateau Margaux (1934)

By Amando Doronila

TUCKED into the newly renovated Aqua Restaurant at the Enterprise Center in central Makati is a wine bar with the improbable name, "Wine Library and Lounge."

Wine bars have grown in popularity over the past few years, spurred by the growth of wine drinking, and are now part of the landscape of food and drink establishments in Metro Manila.

But Wine Library introduces a new concept in the enjoyment of wine. It is not as pedantic as its name suggests. It is run by Denny Wang, former Hong Kong resident who knows his wines with the expertise of professional wine tasters who prowl the vineyards of Bordeaux, France, during the release of new vintages, and hoard thesefor storage and aging.

Wine Library has cozy lounges with good views of the Makati skyline at night but it is somewhat tri-dimensional: it is a also a place for dining (with good food catered by Aqua) and for enjoying the subtleties of good wines.

P20-million cellar

The six-table setting is a good venue for small receptions and for more intimate conversation. According to Wang Wine Library has a 1,500-bottle cellar worth more than P20 million. "Maturity is the theme of this collection," he says. "It addresses precisely what wine enthusiasts find missing on the open market—wines that has been accorded ample time to age and show off their full potential in maturity before they are served."

Like an antiquarian shop, Wine Library holds '50s, '60s, '70s, and '80s vintages of Bordeaux reds—definitely nothing younger than a 1990. There are reds and whites from Burgundy, too, as well as vintage champagne, vintage port and sweet wines from Sauternes and Loire Valley. There are also Spanish, Italian, German, Chilean and California wines. For those who want to discover wines, it is like searching for material on library selves.

The collection consists of wines from Chateau Margaux, Petrus, Lafite, Mouton, Latour and Le Pin. Some of the wines called "sleepers," which have all but disappeared, are in Wine Library. Prices can start from P4,000 a bottle, but to wine connoisseurs, the standard is whether prices are competitive relative to prices overseas, and whether it is premium wine.

Denny gave a preview of his wine bar at cocktails in celebration of the anniversary of Metro magazine. He dazzled Metro editors and staff and their guests with a tasting of five wines—Chateau Lynch-Moussas, 1996 (is this starting to read like a bibliography?); Chateau Rauzan-Gassies, 1983; Chateau Lassegue, 1970; Chateaeu La Lagune, 1987; and Chateau Clinet, 1976. The last was the crowning event, 1976 being an overlooked vintage. Denny apparently has a good nose and instinct for wines worth aging.

More relaxed

But the Wine Library is only part of Aqua. Chef Markus Gfeller who operates Aqua, has redesigned the restaurant into a section for café food and fine dining. For Wine Library and Lounge, Marcus has designed a fixed menu for P450 (excluding the wine). For appetizers, the menu includes seared *foie gras* with prunes and mesclun greens, warm salmon salad with potato puree and roasted beets, morel risottto with garlic confit, and corn veloute with *foie gras*.

For main dish, the choices are: veal loin with morels and potato gnocchi, grilled rib eye with portobello and rosemary, magret of duck with garlic mousse and port wine drizzle, petit Beef Wellington with bearnaise, grilled lamb chops on *ratatouille*, thyme essence, seared salmon on green peas and pint puree, and sea bass with young leek risotto and classic *beurre blanc*.

> Even "sleepers," which have all but disappeared, can be found here. It is also a place for good food and excellent views

Since I had not eaten Beef Wellington in a long while, I asked for it. It was a choice richly rewarded. The tenderloin was exceptionally tender. It was also generously wrapped around a layer of mushrooms and foie gras underneath the thin pastry.

A business menu for P620 offers choices: soup of the day or assorted garden greens with house dressing; smoked salmon and lemon risotto with wilted basil, or pan fried whitefish fillet with lemon butter and capers, or Asian barbeque chicken with garlic potato purée. For dessert there's moist orange cake with chocolate fondue.

The café section serves yet another wide choice of specials. For starters, one may choose from fresh oysters, Vietnamese spring rolls, steamed mussels, clams and vegetable bouillon, mushroom cappuccino soup, spicy work seared *gambas* with pimentos, and seared tuna sashimi with sprouts and peanuts. For the main course, there are 17 dishes listed. To mention only a few: roasted lamb and cilantro on rye sandwich with French fries; blueberry duck leg confit with French potato purée; classic lemon veal schnitzel with French fries; pepper tuna steak with Provençal vegetables and tomato; snapper picatta fillet in parmesan crust and tomato sauce; coconut crusted *mahi-mahi* fillet with macadamia and apple curry; grilled salmon, cabbage and wild rice on mustard sauce; honey balsamic glazed beef tenderloin tips; grilled pesto chicken breast with creamy leek linguini; and pork and pancetta roast with grilled tomato and thyme sauce.

The ambience at the Enterprise Center is different from that of Greenbelt 2 and 3, where more than 70 restaurants compete for space and attention. Dining is more relaxed, and one is never rushed.

(You can call the Wine Library at 886-5718 and Aqua at 8865768)

My kind of single

REVIEW

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

Even God is Single (So Stop Giving Me a Hard Time)
By Karen Salmansohn; Illustrated by Ed Fotheringham
Workman Publishing; 2000
Getting Better (A Novel)
By Tara FT Sering
Summit Media

MANY "singletons" are breathing easy, now that Valentine's Day is over.

No other time of year magnifies one's single status more than this dreaded man-made commercialized season of love. Having been consistently against this day of too-expensive flowers, overpriced set dinners and sappy concerts, I found it amusing that two tiny books cheering on single women should come my way on the week of love.

Completely different in flavor and content, the books each pose a distinctive take on "singlehood." The first is "Getting Better," a novel by Tara FT Sering, a tiny booklet that came free with an issue of Cosmopolitan magazine. It is written by a Filipina and all the characters are Filipino. It is narrated in the first person by Karen, a 30something woman who works in an advertising agency. It chronicles her relationship and break-up with her boyfriend Miko, and the ensuing conversations and experiences she shares with friends, officemates, and family. The locale is familiar, and many innately Pinoy nuances are captured by the characters.

Many modern independent Filipinas will relate to Karen. With parents stuck in a time warp of archaic ideals, many single girls have had to deal with disapproval, especially of their choice of lifestyle. When Karen announces her engagement, her mother, in typical Pinoy fashion, sobs, "*Sa wakas.* (At last!)"

Thanks to modern science, biological time clocks now come with a snooze button option

In these parts, as soon as we reach our 20s, we girls are bombarded with, "When are you getting married?" It gets progressively worse as we approach our 30s. Once we get married they start pressuring us to have kids—but that's another story. The pressure is tenfold in a society like ours, where every acquaintance and relative feels free to intrude.

Karen goes through the blind date dance, with friends trying to fix her up with anything male, to get over a broken heart—only to realize, eventually, that what she is looking for is right under her nose.

Though entertaining enough, "Getting Better" lacks real content and is nothing more than little vignettes of a girl's life. It is very short and is written like a local "Sex and the City." This got me thinking how the groundbreaking HBO series liberated women everywhere, offering them an alternative to marriage.

Edgy, delightful

The other book, "Even God Is Single" (So Stop Giving Me a Hard Time) by Karen Salmansohn, is such a gem, that I wanted to buy hundreds of it for all my single friends. It is an edgy and delightful book that offers 26 witty comebacks to the annoying query, "So why aren't you married?"

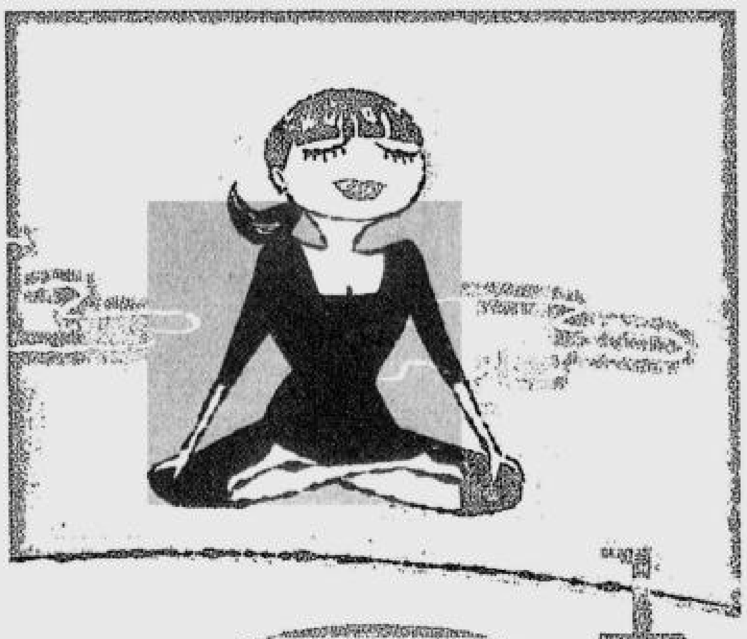
Her answers pay homage to the independent woman who knows that "You're not half a person just because you're not half a couple." This little manifesto for single women, challenges the institution of marriage while citing many cool single role models, among then Catwoman, Buddha, all the comics super heroes, and of course, God.

Salmansohn also points out that Frankenstein and Linda Tripp are married. Other arguments include statistics showing that women who wait until their 30s are less likely to get divorced. She blames fairy tales as false advertising for "happily ever after" marriages.

Thanks to modern science, she says, biological time clocks now come with a snooze button option. And with the number of singles rising, she thinks traditional marriage could eventually become the beta tape of love unions.

Though her quips are not the funniest on the planet, in this book are nearly as many answers to the number of times you've been asked. Incidentally, one of the nastiest comebacks I have ever heard came in an e-mail. It said: To get back at old aunts who ask at weddings, "When will it be your turn?" ask them at funerals, "When will you be next?"

Kidding aside, this is a great book that celebrates women who are still single. Definitely a refreshing departure from the usual "how to get a man to propose" articles in almost all women's magazines.



What's the hurry?

With artwork that is fun, modern and sophisticated, this three-color character illustrated by Ed Fothertingham is the epitome of chic and sassy.

Not anti-marriage

These books are not anti-marriage, however. They actually encourage women to find themselves and not give in blindly to the pressure of having to get married at a certain age.

All our lives we are taught to do the right thing, meaning, what everyone before you has done. But the new millennium has so much more to offer women in their 20s, 30s and even 40s, that their counterparts in past centuries did not have. So why not embrace what life has to offer?

If marriage and a family does it for you then so be it. But if you feel yourself yearning for something more, or if you don't feel you're ready, why let society have its way with you? There is nothing wrong with enjoying wedded bliss. But there is nothing wrong with choosing to be single, either. To paraphrase Salmansohn, "Married people have the same amount of problems as single people do. It's just a matter of deciding which kind of problems you want to have."

(E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com*)*

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Golden Tee 2003

Photos by August dela Cruz

THE ANNUAL Golden Tee golf tournament was a fitting welcome for the balmy weather after a brief cold spell. Awards ceremony was recently held at Manila Golf Club's Veranda.

Once a formal party held at the ballroom of a luxury hotel, this year's affair was casual but chic.

Golden Tee is a tournament played by two-man teams each composed of a club member and a guest. It was introduced in Manila by the MGC in 1968, on the suggestion of **Donald Conde Moore**, who had played in similar tourneys in the United States. The first Golden Tee was won by **Merv Simpson** and his guest **Art Ignacio**.

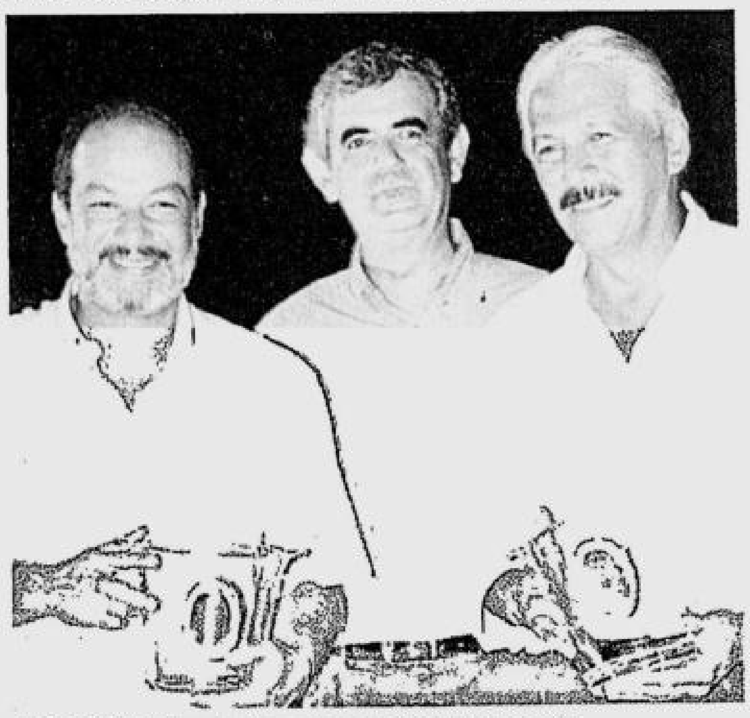
This year's winners in the Golden Tee are **Antonio Toralba** and **Fernando Ampil**. **Kay Tachie** is the Golden Tee winner in the women's division. **Richie Garcia** is the champion in the men's division.

Golfer-singer **Leah Navarro** hosted the program. This event is attended by Manila's 400, top corporate accounts and expats.

(SEATED) Ceasar Buenaventura, O.V. Espiritu, David Batchelor. (standing) Rudy Cuenca, P.L. Lim, Vic Reyes

JACK MAdrid, Mundi and Zita Feliciano, Ting and Roberta Feliciano

ESTER Sallee and Remy Romero-Salas



RAMON Tito Garcia, Nono Ibazeta and Richie Garcia

JAKE Almeda Lopez and John Sallee

ALEX Prieto and Manoling Chan

MANOLING Chan, Jinggoy Tuason

CHOY and Marisa Cojuangco

KAY Tachie

(STANDING) Marilou Batchelor, Madeleine Lim, Sonny Vistan (seated) Pinky Heredia, Boling Reyes

O.V. Espiritu, Joe Lubus and Jojo Guingona

TITO Yuchengco

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SATURDAY Special
Editor Nestor U. Torre ◎ Associate Editor Edmund L. Sicam

Kidman wants to be swept off her feet–but not yet

KIDMAN. No desire to go back to the dating game.

LONDON—Nicole Kidman would love to be swept off her feet by a new man—but not yet.

Worst time

Speaking to Hello! magazine about her break-up with fellow movie star Tom Cruise, she said: "It was the worst time in my 35 years of living, all I felt was great sadness."

Kidman's film career is currently on a high with her role in the critically acclaimed "The Hours" already a contender for Oscar honors. But there is no new love in her life.

She said she was not dating anyone and had no desire to go back to the dating game.

Celebrity magazine

"I'd love to be swept off my feet at some stage. I really would. It would be nice to fall in love again. But I strongly believe that it will

KIDMAN/D6

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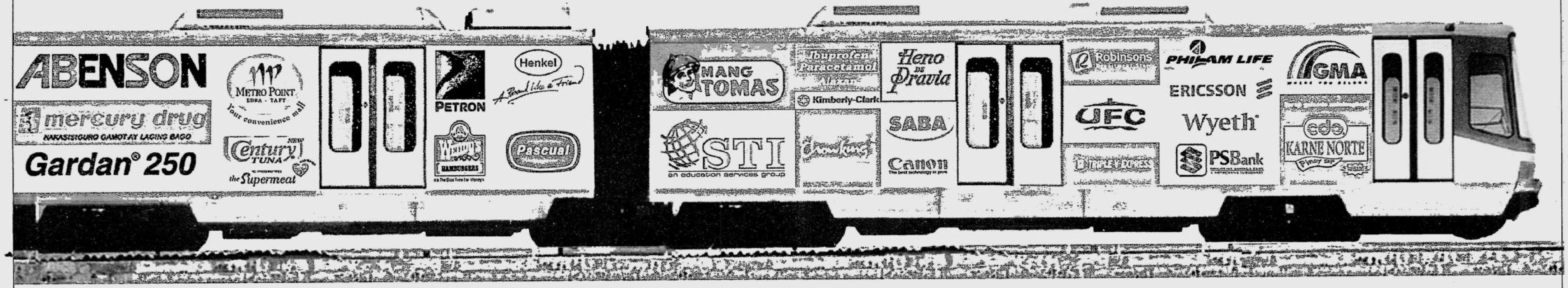
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Judy Ann parts ways with Piolo on TV

By Jocelyn Valle

THOUGH Judy Ann Santos and Piolo Pascual are working together on a movie project, it may take a while before the stars of the recently-concluded *teleserye*, "Sa Puso Ko Iingatan Ka," can team up again on TV.

New leading man

One reason: Judy Ann will have a new leading man in her next soap that will commence taping in March, after she returns home from a series of shows in the US.

"*Hindi naman pinlano 'yung* love team *namin ni* Piolo," Judy Ann avers. The "That's Entertainment" graduates found they have wonderful chemistry when they costarred in Star Cinema's "Kahit Isang Saglit," along with former commercial model Leandro Muñoz. They proved it once again in the romantic comedy "Bakit Hindi Totohanin," and then in "Sa Puso."

Now it's time for the tandem to part ways, albeit temporarily. "*Ganun talaga*," she points out. "We have to move on. *Puro* memories *na lang ang maiiwan. Tinanggap mo na may* love team, *kaya dapat tanggapin mo rin kung hindi na.*"

Three love teams

To date, Judy Ann has had three love teams on the small and big screens: Wowie de Guzman ("Esperanza,"), Rico Yan ("Gimik,") and Piolo. She also got cozy with Dingdong Dantes and Cogie Domingo in a couple of movies.

"*Ang* love team *naman kasi* is created by the *masa*," she maintains, stressing that fans determine which on-screen partnerships click.

Judy Ann adds that she is not obliged to like her *ka*-love team. "*Hindi ako nakikibagay kasi malaking obligasyon 'yun*," she explains. "I can be professional about it. *Pero kasi, hindi p'wedeng walang* 'electricity.' *Lalo na sa akin, kasi napaka*-transparent *ko*."

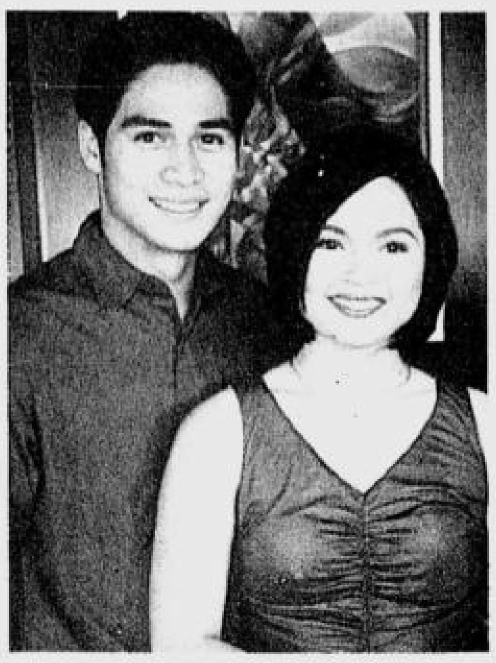
But how does Judy Ann draw the line between acting and falling in love with an on-cam partner? "I don't," she replies. "*Kasi ayaw kong pigilan kung ano ang nararamdaman ko. Alam ko naman kung saan ako lulugar. Kahit* attracted *ako, hindi ko pipigilan kasi magiging* limited *ang mga kilos namin*."

Emotions

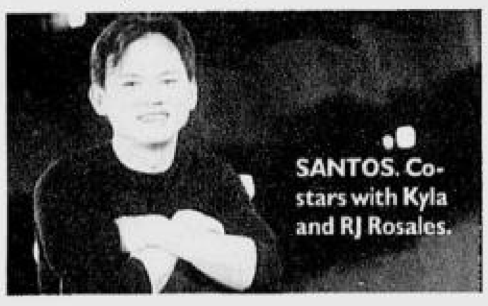
"*Minsan lang mangyari 'yun*," she continues. "*Ayokong mag*-regret. *'Yung mga* emotions, treasured *ko 'yon*."

She can only smile when we told her about Piolo's positive response to our query regarding actors falling in love with their co-stars: "*Hindi naman kasi ako manhid*," Piolo laughs. "But it's hard to mix my personal life with my career. I allow myself to fall in love with my co-stars but not to have a serious romantic relationship with them. Yes, including Juday. What's nice about us is that we know each other so well."

Nodding, Judy Ann offers, "*Marami pang darating na* tests *sa* friendship *namin, pero* prepared *kami* for the worst. *Kasi, nagkakaintindihan kami. Alam namin kung kailan tatahimik sa intriga*."



PASCUAL AND SANTOS. Time to move on.



SANTOS. Co-stars with Kyla and RJ Rosales.

'Something Stupid' staged at CCP Feb. 28

WHAT happens when a man meets a woman and they fall in love? They should live happily ever after, right? But what if other characters get in the way?

This is the subject of the musical comedy "Something Stupid" to be staged on Feb. 28 and Mar. 1 at 8 p.m. at the CCP. In the cast are Kyla, Dessa, The Company, RJ Rosales and Jon Santos. Call 832-3681.

MONTAGE

Ogie's concert series extended

Viva Concerts has extended the concert series of Ogie Alcasid at Onstage Greenbelt with shows on Feb. 22, 27, 28 and March 1.

Joining Ogie onstage are Regine Velasquez on Feb. 22, Zsa Zsa Padilla on Feb. 27, Pops Fernandez on Feb. 28 and Lani Misalucha on Mar. 1. Call 413-2572.

'Rush Hour 2' on HBO

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker team up once more in "Rush Hour 2" to be aired on HBO on Feb. 25 at 12:30 p.m. They investigate bombings in Hong Kong attributed to gang leader Ricky Tan (John Lone) and assassin Hu Li (Zhang Ziyi).

Teleserye themes

ABS-CBN has put together themes from the network's *teleseryes* in one album. "Teleserye TV Theme Songs (Repackaged)" contains the theme songs of "Bituin," "Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay," "Pangako Sa 'Yo," "Saan Ka Man Naroroon" and other shows.

Featured singers are Carol Banawa, Kristine Hermosa, Piolo Pascual, Jessa Zaragoza, Dessa and others.

Carlos Agassi's new album

Rapper Carlos Agassi has come out with his latest album, "Boracay Baby." The album contains 12 hot tracks that will set the mood for summer parties.

To promote the album, Star Records is holding a search for the official Boracay Baby.

Carlos will also do a mall tour on the following days: Mar. 1, Ever Ortigas; Mar. 2, SM Bacoor; Mar. 8, SM Southmall, Mar. 9, SM Sucat.

'crazy/beautiful' on Star Movies

Kirsten Dunst and Jay Hernandez star in the provocative teen drama "crazy/beautiful" on Feb. 23 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies.

UE Dance Troupe reunion today

The UE Dance Troupe will hold a grand reunion today, Feb. 22 at the Rembrandt Hotel in Quezon City. Noted dance artists Gener Caringal and Arlene Dy-Maranan will attend the affair. Those who want to join the reunion may call Cora Sakamura at 913-7697 or 0916-425-9114. *(Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam)*

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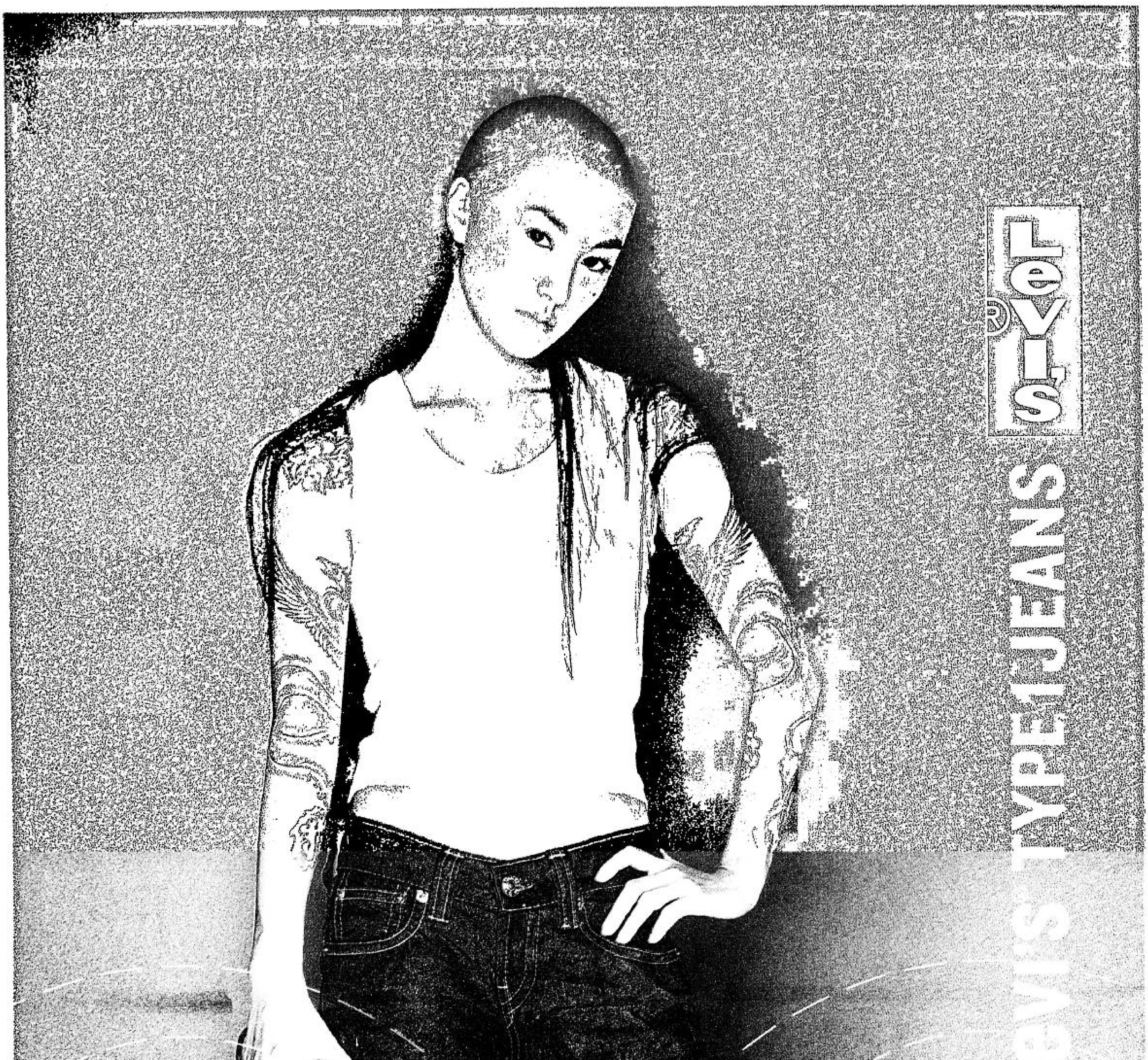
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Spike Lee does the right thing

By Noelani Torre

WE haven't heard much of filmmaker Spike Lee lately, and that's a shame. We must confess, though, that we didn't hear much about him in the past, either—but that's primarily because we only "discovered" him recently. The fact that his films don't usually play in our country's theaters might also have something to do with it.

LEE. Blessed with the opportunity to express black people's views.

Sensitive issues

"Nobody else in America is making movies that engage, entertain and challenge viewers the way Spike Lee does," says a reviewer. Lee, one of the few well-known African-American filmmakers, has always been open about his reasons for constantly tackling such sensitive issues as racial prejudice and violence.

"I've been blessed with the opportunity to express the views of black people who otherwise don't have access to power and the media," he explains. "I have to take advantage of that while I'm still in this position."

Debut film

Lee literally exploded on the cinematic scene with his independently-produced debut film "She's Gotta Have It" in 1986. The comedy went on to win the Prix de Jeunesse Award at the Cannes Film Festival. The critical and box-office success of his second feature, "School Daze," was sufficient to catapult Lee to his current legendary status.

"Spike Lee has established himself as one of Hollywood's most important and influential filmmakers in the past decade," says In Motion Magazine. The dramatic rise of his career in the '80s proved beneficial not only to him personally, but also to other African-Americans working in Hollywood.

"School Daze," for one, helped launch the careers of several young African-American actors like Denzel Washington and Lawrence Fishburne.

We made the acquaintance of Mr. Lee through his third feature film "Do The Right Thing" (Universal Pictures). It has recently been available in Criterion Collection DVD, with additional special features.

A great deal of information and insight about the movie is provided by the film's companion volume, "Do The Right Thing" (Simon and Schuster), authored by Lee himself. (He also starred in the movie, playing pizza delivery boy Mookie, whose philosophy in life is "I gots to get paid.")

Best description

"Do The Right Thing" was nominated for a Best Original Screenplay Oscar and won Best Film and Best Director awards from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association. Barry Michael Cooper, who wrote the foreword for the book, gives the best description of this deliberately provocative movie's effect on its audiences:

"This film is meant to foster heated discussion of the race problem, not only in Brooklyn or New York City, but also throughout America. Some people might charge that it's out to instigate a few racial confrontations. But what 'Do The Right Thing' will not do is leave you apathetic." *(To be concluded)*

Time for theater talents to take stock, start afresh

By Nestor U. Torre

A NUMBER of theater people are concerned about some of the directions that stage plays and production companies are taking these days. They hope that theater workers take stock, reflect, and correct some of the negative aspects of their work to date.

Work ethic

First, it is noted that, with more people now active in theatrical presentations, the level of talent has gone down. There are too many mediocre people in the field who are in it just for the money. Instead of looking at theater as an artistic endeavor, they call it their "racket," which shows how low their attitude and work ethic have sunk.

It's also sad that some theater groups practically bribe school principals and teachers to force their students to watch their productions, with a hefty "commission" going to the teachers involved.

This leaves a bad taste in the mouth because teachers are supposed to be paragons of ethical behavior, and it sets a very bad example for students, who see their mentors, whom they're supposed to look up to, practically forcing them to buy tickets just to make a buck.

Teachers

Worse, this creates the wrong kind of audience for theater, unhappy youths who are obliged to pay good money to see a presentation they really aren't interested in, just to stay out of trouble with their teachers. Of course, when these students complete their studies, they won't have a good impression of theater, and aren't likely to patronize plays on their own!

It's OK for schools to assign plays for students to watch, but the bottom line is that there should be no coercion, ticket prices should be low, and most important of all, principals and teachers should make no money from the transaction.

Some theater people also object to the practice of a number of production companies to promise actors a certain number of performances, but actually give them less.

Actors

In addition, they complain about the low talent fees that actors and production people get. Too big a share of the production budget goes to sets, costumes, props and technical requirements, while the people in the production end up with the loose change.

It should be the other way around: people first, physical elements second. After all, it's the artists who "make" a production, so they should be taken care of first.

Finally, some big theater names have gotten lazy, and merely coast along on sheer reputation. The people working with them sadly say that they no longer learn from them. That's a big pity because they *used* to be wonderful mentors who were good at training the next generation of theater talents.

It's time for the talents in Philippine theater to rethink what they've been doing, throw out all the bad habits they've acquired, revive their genuine love for the performing arts, and start afresh.

The burgeoning audience for theater in the Philippines deserves nothing less.

Love God above all else

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LOVING is natural to the soul. A child is naturally attracted by his parents' love. We are attracted to friends who don't judge us. Spouses are attracted by their partner's thoughtfulness and affection.

Glimpse

If we understand our hearts, then we can also have a glimpse of the heart of the Supreme Being. We have all experienced being attracted to someone who has affection for us. It's like a magnet that draws us to the person. Similarly, the Supreme Being is attracted by the love that a soul offers to Him.

To love God without vested interest is the highest happiness. And God is attracted by that love like a bee to the nectar of flowers.

Perfect match

It is in our nature to love. As part and parcel of God, it is also in my nature to love God. It's a perfect match!

Love for God is naturally established in the heart. Right now, it is dormant and needs to be awakened. By hearing and chanting the Names of God, we are opening our hearts to love Him.

People think human relationships are real, while a relationship with God is unreal.

But all the great sages teach us the reality of God, and the reality of loving Him. Surrendering to the Supreme Beloved means surrendering to love itself.

Fullness

When we taste this fullness in our hearts, we automatically experience compassion and true concern for other parts and parcels of God, as well.

Let us love wisely and fully. Let us love the most perfect person who is just waiting for us to love Him. This is the true purpose of our existence, and the happiness we are all craving for.

Email Lotuspond@hotmail.com

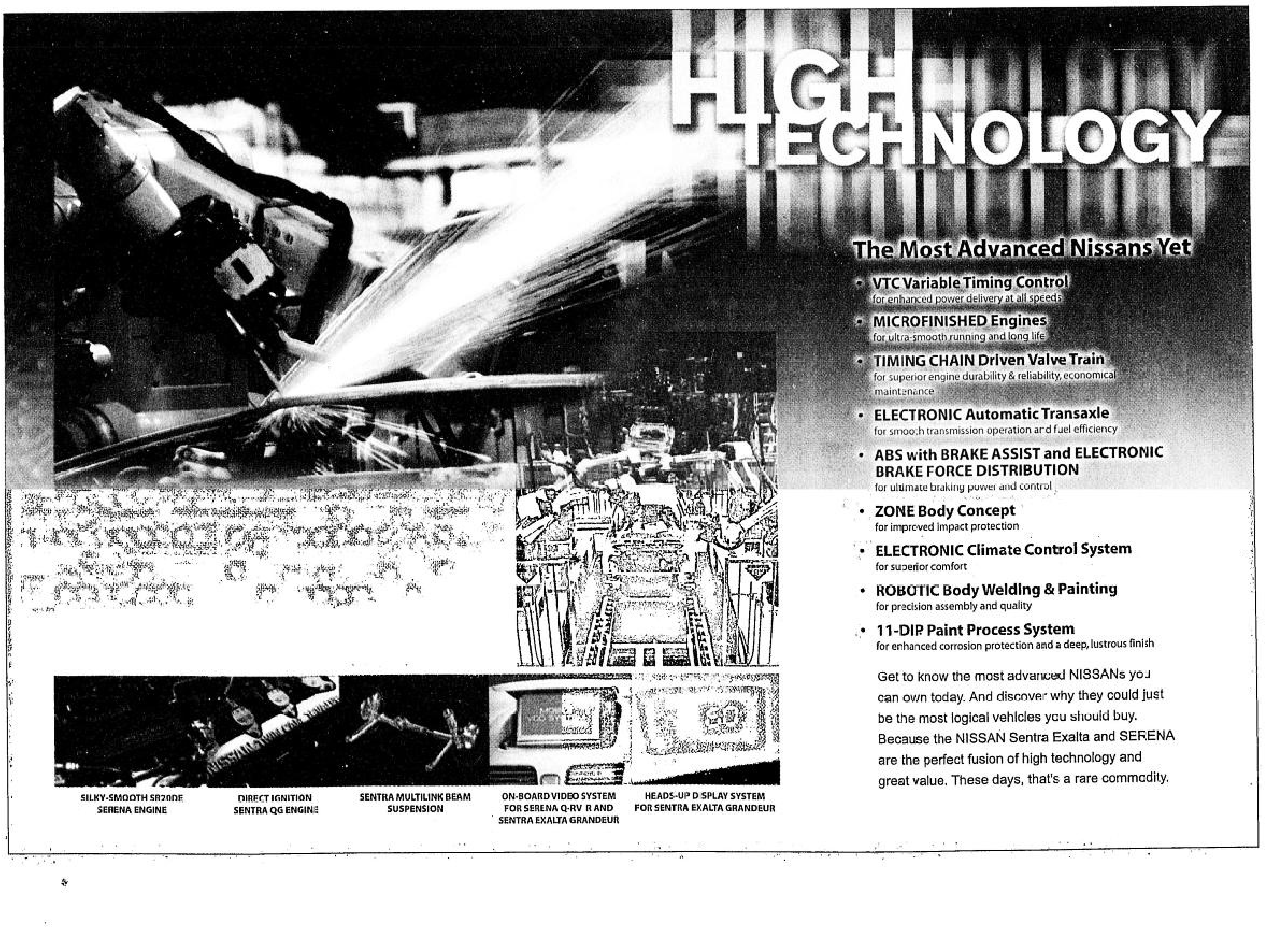
Kidman . . .

From page D1

happen when I least expect it," she told the celebrity magazine.

"For now I have to admit I still go through periods where I'm frightened by the love of a man, so I know that I'm not quite ready to be dating seriously."

Reuters



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TRIVIAL PURSUITS

Streisand acts against type

STREISAND. Her portrayal of a motorcycle-riding, sexy blonde got mixed reviews.

By Rito P. Asilo

DO you have trivia questions about your favorite celebrities? E-mail us: rito_asilo@yahoo.com.

"Barbra Streisand, the 60-year-old multi-media superstar, has always been criticized for taking on multi-hyphenated tasks (actress, director, scriptwriter, composer, singer, producer, etc.) in vanity film projects ('Yentl,' 'The Mirror Has Two Faces,' 'Funny Girl,' 'Prince of Tides,' 'Nuts,' etc.). Has she never appeared in a film where she plays just second lead?"—*From Leda Jacinto, Davao City.*

Answer: She apparently did. The film: "All Night Long." In 1981, to repay a favor, La Streisand hurriedly replaced Lisa Eichorn in the film, with Gene Hackman and Dennis Quaid in the lead, while the film was in mid-production.

The character-against-type she played, a motorcycle-riding, sexy blonde, is Barbra's only supporting film role to date, and earned her mixed reviews for looking so different from her usually long-fingernailed, sassy characters on the big screen.

Bathroom victory

"Renee Zellweger won the first of her two Golden Globe Best Actress awards (the most recent was for 'Chicago') while she was in the bathroom. For which movie did she win the Golden Globe first?"—*From Ronalyn de Lim, Valenzuela.*

Answer: The often-nominated actress won it first in the dark comedy, Neil LaBute's "Nurse Betty" (2000). That year, she bested Sandra Bullock, Juliette Binoche. Brenda Blethyn and Tracey Ullman. This year, she bagged her second Globe trophy for the dark musical, "Chicago."

Dearly beloved ex-husband

"According to Mia Farrow's biography, a former husband of hers offered to have Woody Allen's leg broken when he was found to be having an affair with Mia's adopted daughter, Soon Yi Previn. What was the title of the book? And who was the ex-husband?"—*From Eleonor Jardin, Davao.*

Answer: This was revealed in the book, "What Falls Away." The offer came from Mia's ex, crooner Frank Sinatra, who was married to her from 1966 to 1968.

'Flower Drum' soap star

Filipina Broadway star Lea Salonga appeared in a long-running American soap. What was the name of her character?—*From Hubert John Mayo, Quezon City.*

Answer: Lea appeared in "As The World Turns," a long-running American soap that started airing in 1956. Her character's name: Lien Hughes.

Regine sings her greatest hits

By Leia Torre

VELASQUEZ. Different sound and feeling.

"REGINE Velasquez Greatest Hits" contains 15 tracks, all hit songs popularized by Regine Velasquez, "Asia's Songbird."

Movie themes

Four tunes have been featured as theme songs in movies—"Ikaw" (in the movie "Dahil May Isang Ikaw"), "Pangako" ("Pangako-Ikaw Lang"), "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" ("Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," and "You Are My Song" ("Wanted Perfect Mother").

While some songs have been created especially for Regine, others were originated by other singers. Still, Regine manages to make them her own by imbuing them with a different sound and feeling.

"Ikaw" is a moving love song that has stood the test of time, and of numerous (not so good) singers. Fortunately, Regine renders this song in a way that fully vivifies its beautiful melody and lyrics.

"Pangako" starts out simply, but ends very grandly. As is usual with a Regine Velasquez performance, all of the high notes and most of the prolonged ones are saved for the second half of the song, in order to make an impressive ending.

Vocal calisthenics

In "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," the vocal calisthenics are in the middle part of the song. In this album, Regine performs it in a more uncomplicated way than she does when performing it live, which makes for a refreshing change.

Only duet

The only duet is "Hanggang Ngayon," which Regine sings with Ogie Alcasid. It is a beautifully-executed piece. They are powerful performers in their own right, and know how to adjust to each other, so they blend well and their voices complement each other.

"You Are My Song" is considered one of Regine's more vocally-challenging songs. Its lyrics are also memorable. And it has a lot of those high notes that Regine is known for.

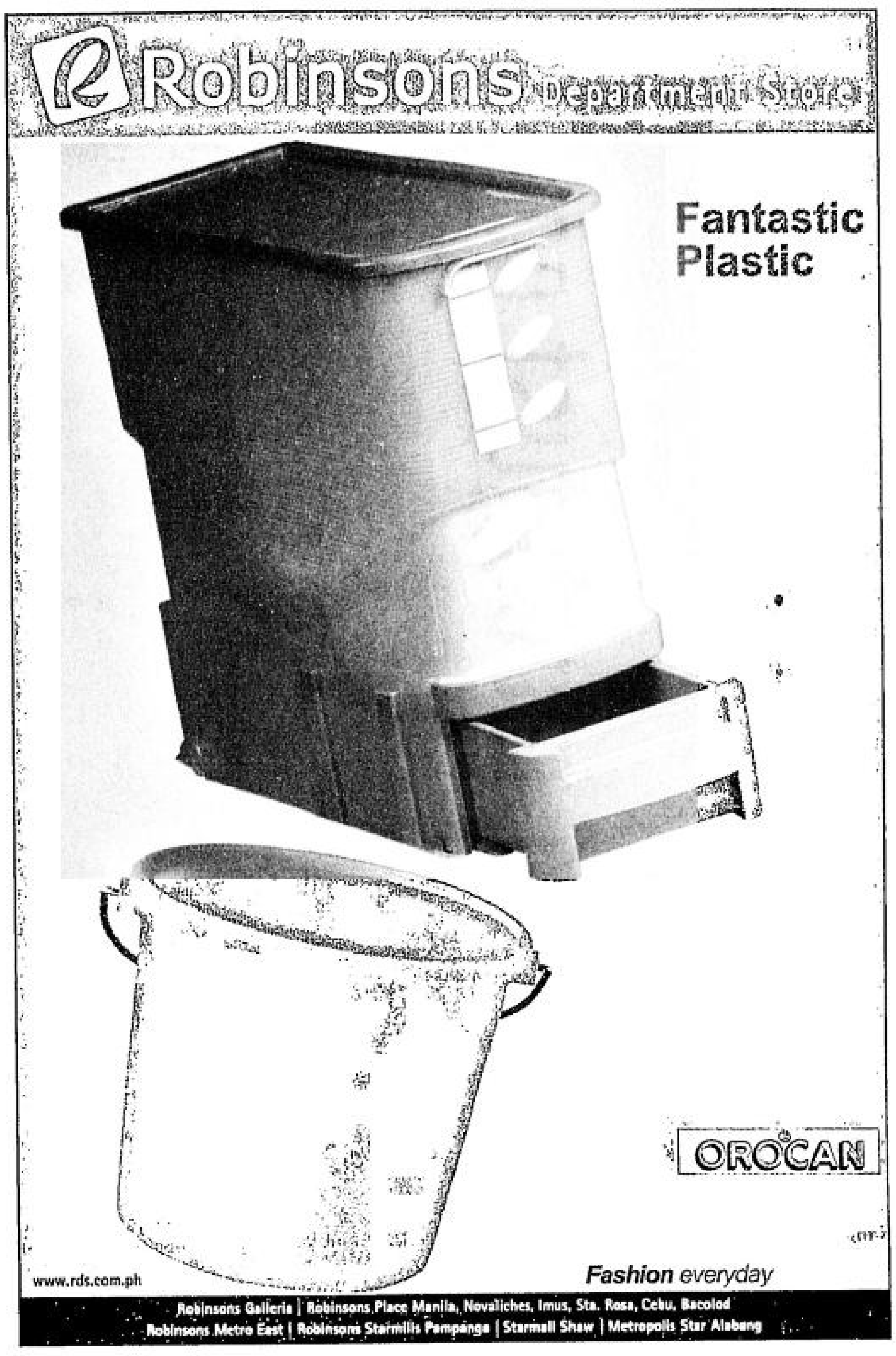
"In Your Eyes" offers something new: a duet of Regine singing with herself.

Own style

The last track is, appropriately enough, "On the Wings of Love." Although this song was originally sung by a foreign artist, Regine has made the song her own by sticking to her own style.

This album also offers a visual treat, a free video CD featuring the music videos of some songs. The videos also include lyrics that flash across the screen.

This collection is a treat for people who love good music, but especially for those who love Regine Velasquez.



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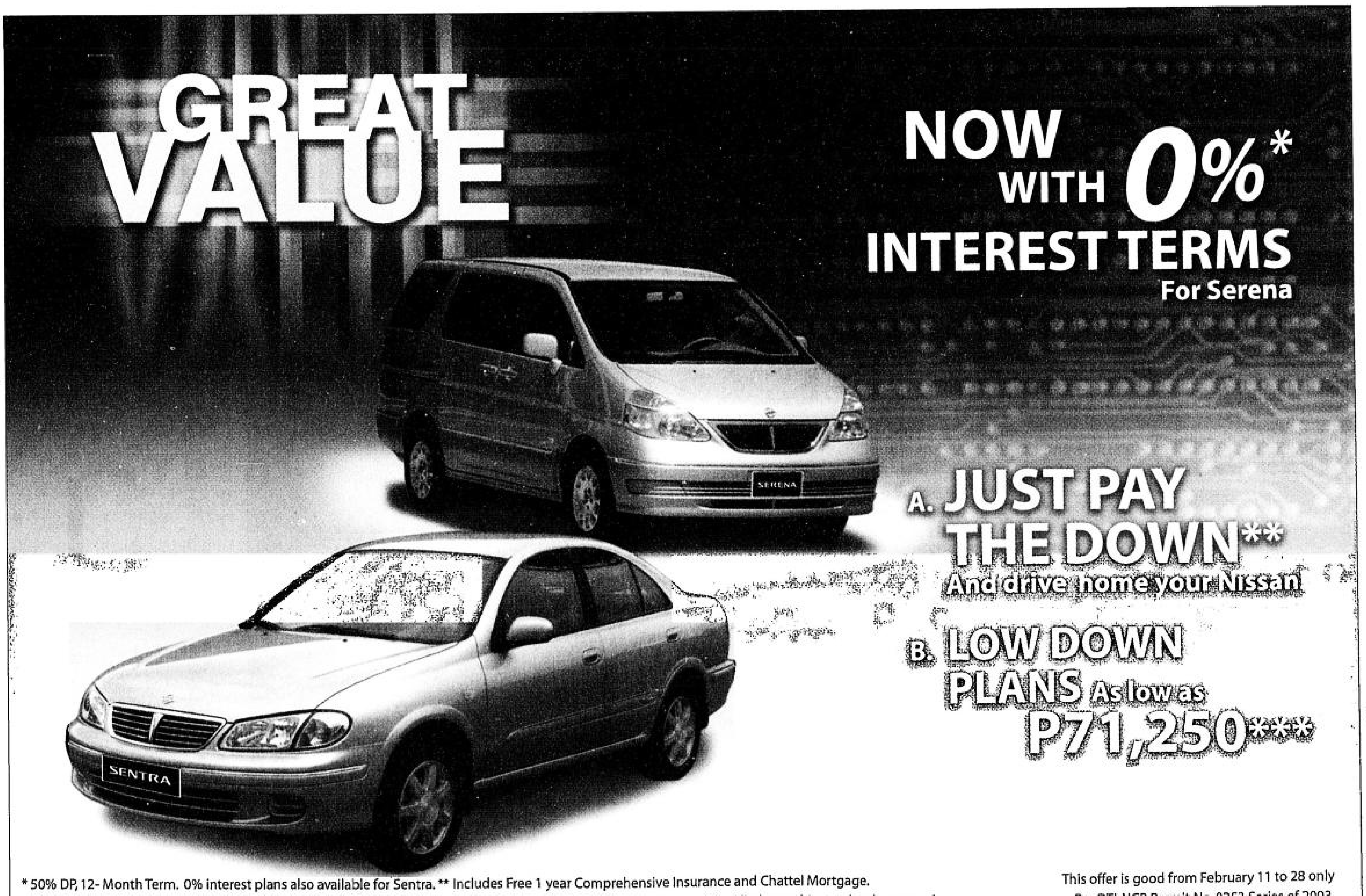

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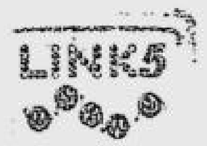

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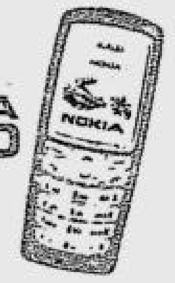

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY*Special*

"IN This World" director Michael Winterbottom.

"THE Hours" filmmaker Stephen Daldry.

'In This World' wins best film award in Berlin

By Philip Blenkinsop

BERLIN—The British film "In This World," about two Afghan refugees, won the top award at the Berlin Film Festival last Saturday, and Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore and Nicole Kidman of "The Hours" shared the best actress prize.

The 53rd annual Berlinale, one of Europe's top three film festivals, named Sam Rockwell best actor for playing US game show mogul Chuck Barris in George Clooney's directorial debut, "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind."

Central theme

The Golden Bear for best film reflected the central theme of this year's festival, the thorny topic of migration. "In This World," directed by Michael Winterbottom, followed the fate of two Afghans in a Pakistan refugee camp who seek a new life in the West. Their journey to London is long and hazardous.

Winterbottom said he had been compelled to make the film, one of 22 that competed in Berlin, because of a growing hostility towards immigrants throughout Europe.

Economic migrants

"People say: 'These people shouldn't be here, they should be sent home' . . . But

'IN THIS'/E2

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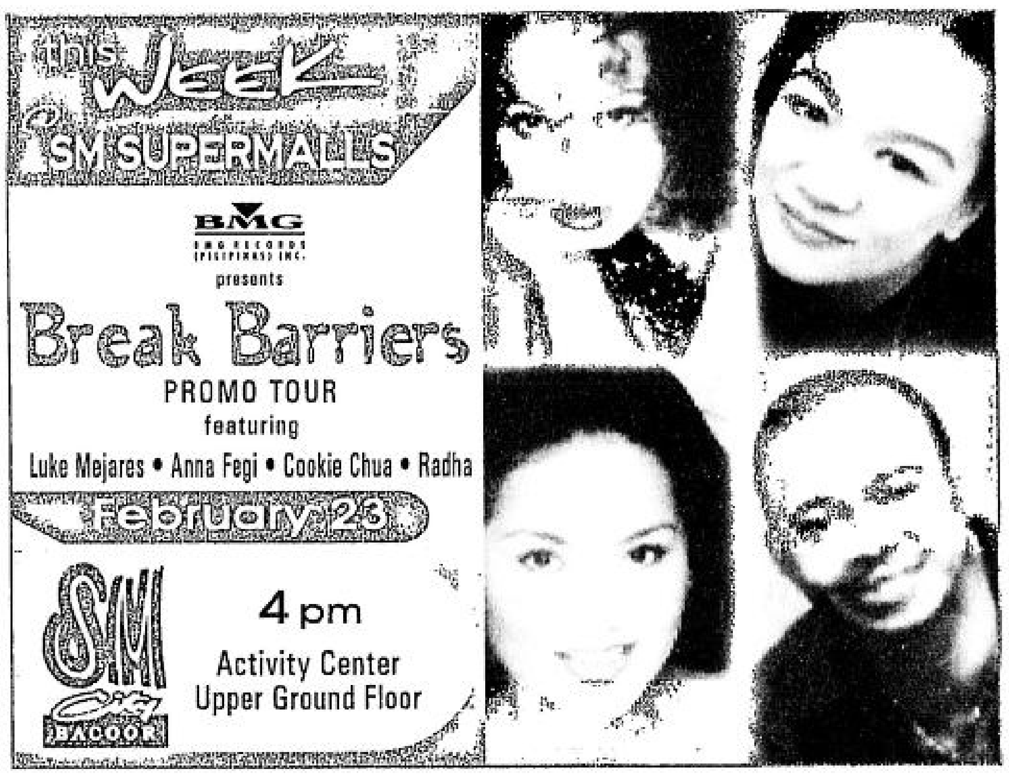

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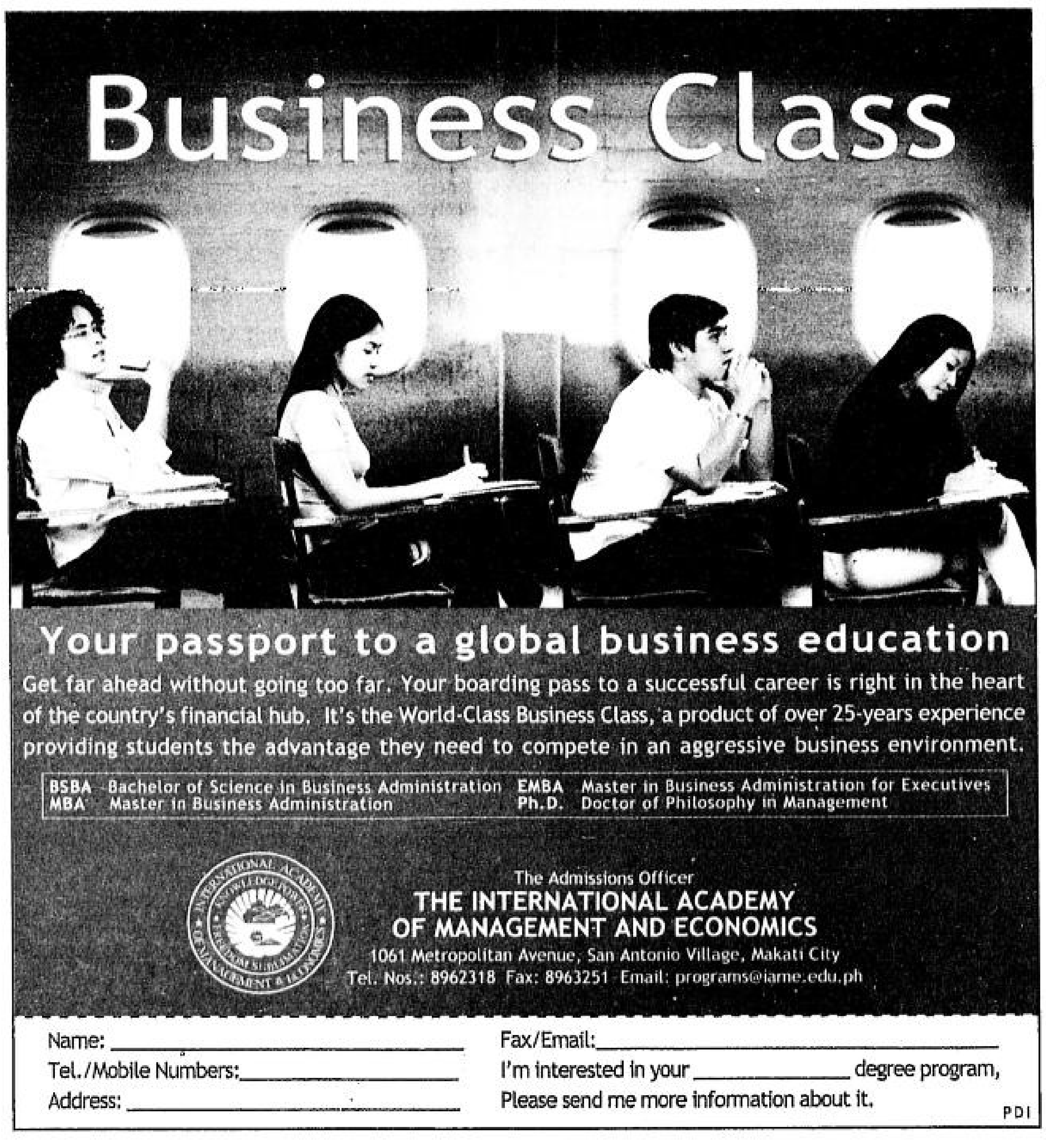

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6	Josh Groban	Josh Groban	
7	A Wonderful World	Tony Bennett & K.D. Lang	
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11	Lady Sings The Blues	Various Artists	
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14	Let Go	Avril Lavigne	keyword: *imwithu*
15	Room For Squares: Limited Edition	John Mayer	
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17	Any Given Thursday	John Mayer	keyword: *smissing*
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19	Piolo	Piolo Pascual	
20	Heaven	Nina	
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"THE FOUR Feathers" (top) is directed by Shekhar Kapur, while "The Guru" (right) stars Jimi Mistry. Photo at far right, top, is of Sining Kambayoka; below, young pianist Hannah Lynn Basa Tan.

'Dekada '70' is first Best Picture awardee this year

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

STAR Cinema's "Dekada '70," directed by Chito Roño, may not have won the Best Picture award in last December's Metro Manila Film Festival, but it's copped an even bigger plum: the Film Desk of the Young Critics Circle has voted it as Best Picture for all of Film Year 2002.

That's a signal honor and forthright refutation of the MMFF's controversial decision, and it could be seconded by other awards groups that will be announcing their choices in the months to come.

Firming up its decision, the YCC has also awarded the script of "Dekada '70" (by Lualhati Bautista) its Best Screenplay honor, the portrayals by Vilma Santos and Piolo Pascual tied for the Best Performance award, and Michael Idioma and Alex Tomboc were cited for Best Sound.

Incidentally, the Best Performance award for Vilma is another big deal, because she too was snubbed by the MMFF jurors. And it will be recalled that Lualhati's name wasn't even read at the Metro filmfest's awards rites as one of the nominees.

Other YCC awards have gone to "Ikaw Lamang, Hanggang Ngayon" for Cinematography (Yam Laranas) and Visual Design (Sammy Aranzamendez), and to "Diskarte" for Editing (Francis Vinarao).

Other films that figured in the YCC's deliberations include "Mga Munting Tinig," "Buko Pandan," and "Itlog." It appears that "Mano Po" was nowhere in sight.

YCC will honor its top choices for 2002 in ceremonies next month. A forum will also be held to discuss issues involved in the selection process, and other concerns affecting Philippine movies, with the 2002 honorees in attendance.

YCC is composed of Nonoy L. Lauzon (president), Prof. Jerry C. Respeto (vice president), Dr. Patrick Flores, Dr. Flaudette May V. Datuin, Romulo P. Baquiran Jr., Noel D. Ferrer, Ariel N. Valerio, Dr. Galileo S. Zafra, Eli R. Guieb III and Prof. Neil Martial R. Santillan.

Bollywood goes Hollywood

Bollywood is going Hollywood in a big way this year, as Indian stars and filmmakers gain entry into the movie scene in the west:

The new film, "The Four Feathers," starring Kate Hedson and Heath Ledger, turns out to be directed by Shekhar Kapur. Set in the Victorian era, Kapur's film is an epic war adventure about its hero's self-doubt, and his journey to discover his individuality.

Next, Universal Pictures and Working Titles Films present a new kind of screen hero in Jimi Mistry in "The Guru." Mistry plays an ambitious dance instructor in India who decides to go to the States in pursuit of fame and fortune.

However, he meets an adult film star and a ditzy socialite who turn his life upside-down and force him to reinvent himself as New York's hottest sex guru.

"The Guru" will be shown from Feb. 26 to March 11 at Artfilm Greenbelt 1 as part of Greenbelt's Indian Fest celebration. The film also stars Heater Graham and Marissa Tomei.

Matinee show

AT 4 p.m. today, "Martin and Pops in Concert" will have a matinee performance at Araneta Coliseum at popular prizes. Aside from the celebrated "uncouple's" musical hits, there are love songs and new arrangements in store for the concert audience.

More Oscar Best Picture awardees

Winners of the Best Picture award at the Oscars, from 1986 onward:

1986, "Platoon," starring Charlie Sheen and directed by Oliver Stone.

1987, "The Last Emperor," directed by Bernardo Bertolucci.

1988, "Rainman," starring Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise, and directed by Barry Levinson.

1989, "Driving Miss Daisy," starring Jessica Tandy and Morgan Freeman, and directed by Bruce Beresford.

1990, "Dances With Wolves," starring Kevin Costner, who also directed the film.

1991, "The Silence of the Lambs," starring Anthony Hopkins and directed by Jonathan Demme.

1992, "Unforgiven," starring Clint Eastwood, also the film's director.

1993, "Schindler's List," starring Liam Neeson and directed by Steven Spielberg.

1994, "Forrest Gump," starring Tom Hanks and directed by Robert Zemeckis.

1995, "Braveheart," starring Mel Gibson, who also directed the film.

1996, "The English Patient," directed by Anthony Minghella.

1997, "Titanic," starring Leonardo Di Caprio and directed by James Cameron.

First solo concert

Pianist Hannah Lynn Basa Tan, 13 years old, is set to debut in her first solo concert at 5 p.m. today at St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College, Manila.

She will play works by Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Sacramento, Buenaventura and Kabalevsky. The recital is open to the public.

29th anniversary

The award-winning and internationally-accalimed theater company, Sining Kambayoka, is currently celebrating its 29th anniversary (until Feb. 23) in Lake Sebu and at the Mindanao State University in General Santos City.

Founded in 1974 by Frank Rivera and Rufino Ignacio in MSU-Marawi City, Sining Kambayoka has received the Gawad CCP for Theater, the Balagtas Award and the Aliw Award for Best Cultural Troupe.

Boob-tube booboos

Host: Here's our quiz question. If you answer it correctly, you will win a big prize! Here's the question: *Sino ang* most popular group in the world *na nabenta ng halos* 10 billion record album?

(10 *billion*?!)

* * *

Host Why are you filing a libel case against this writer?

Guest: Because he's too much already!

Host: Why, what did he do that was too much?

Guest: Well, it's obvious, what he wrote about and against me, it was already too much down below!

(*Ay*, down below!)

* * *

Host: What do you like about the character you are playing in this stage play?

Guest: I like my role because it's set in the Victorian Eira.

(*Ay*, Eira!)

Authentic Italian cooking at Bellini's

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

ITALIAN cooking is one of the most acclaimed cuisines in the world. Pizza and pasta have become very popular. Question is, do many versions do full justice to the authentic Italian original?

Local version

Ask an Italian and he'll very likely give a negative response. Each country has its own local version, though.

Many years ago, a small pizza place called 3M opened at Timog. Owned and operated by a cousin, Jun Meñes, it became so successful, that it was to be known to many as the "original-tasting" pizza.

Cuisine

I have also gotten tips from friends about Bellini's, an Italian restaurant in Cubao. It was only recently that I was able to sample its cuisine.

The place is owned and operated by Roberto Bellini, a former papparazzi. While he was chasing celebrities, his wife, Maria Luisa, a Filipina, was busy learning how to cook authentic Italian food from her mother-in-law.

The restaurant is located at the Marikina Shoe Expo in Cubao, beside the COD Department Store. The place is not too big, but the food beats the cuisine of many Italian restaurants here.

We ordered Contadina, Risotto Fungi, Cartoccio, and Penne. The Risotto was simple but delicious. This is a Porcini Mushroom Risotto that is cooked al dente and has a subtle mushroom flavor to it.

Pasta

The Cartoccio is a pasta with mixed seafood and plump tomatoes. Also good. This is served in foil so that when you open it, the aroma jumps out.

Roberto recommended the Penne with Truffle cream sauce. I love truffles so this was also a winner.

But the dish that I thought was done very well was the Contadina. Very simple ingredients, but the taste is beyond description—spaghetti, olive oil, garlic, red chili peppers and some parmesan cheese. Superb!

His pizzas have a thin crust and are also worth trying. There are many toppings to choose from. I like the weird combinations. The breads need to be worked on, though.

Wondering what authentic Italian pasta and pizza tastes like? Check out Bellini's—tel. no. 913-2550.

Happy eating!

ROBERTO Bellini (right), with his wife Maria Luisa, a Filipina.

SPAGHETTI Al Cartoccio (spaghetti with mixed seafood baked in oven).

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

Sharon

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

Do you remember the darkest hour I had at the hospital, when I just wanted to let go of everything and didn't wish to live anymore, because I had had it with life and there didn't seem any reason left to go on?

Special visitor

Well, as you know, Clara, I had a special visitor at that time who helped me through the crisis. The doctors left very strict orders that I was to receive absolutely no visitors because I needed to rest.

I might get too excited, and that could affect my blood pressure and my heart rate. But, those doctors didn't reckon with my special visitor, who cast a magic spell on the nurses, who allowed her into my hospital room.

She was Sharon Cuneta. I was drifting from sleep to wakefulness when the door opened and she came into the room. She stayed for several minutes. I can no longer remember everything that happened, but there was something she said that will forever be etched in my memory:

Two mothers

"Ate Luds, I used to have two mothers in show biz—you and Tita Mina (del Rosario). Tita Mina is already gone, so, you're all I have. Ate Luds, please don't die. Promise me that you will not die."

Among other things, that helped a lot to tilt the balance for me. How could I go when there were people who loved and cared for me—people whom I love and care for, too—who are more than enough reason for me to live? People like you—and Sharon Cuneta.

Truth to tell, the first time Sharon and I met wasn't very auspicious. We both guested on Jeanne Young's top-rating game show "Spin-A-Win." Sharon was her usual energetic, over-excited self and it irked me that she grabbed the microphone away from me a number of times.

But, Clara, there was also a time when it was her turn to be mad at me. She and Gabby Concepcion had just tied the knot then and I managed to burst her bubble when she guested to promote "Sa Hirap at Ginhawa" on "See-True." I aired a VTR which chronicled all the girls in Gabby's past, as well as all the guys in hers.

Sharon got offended and, I guess, she had a reason to be. But, unknown to her, that VTR was part of the promo campaign for her movie. Viva Films big bosses Vic and Mina del Rosario sought my help to heighten the excitement for the most controversial newlyweds then.

Exciting

I told them what I had in mind and they thought the VTR idea quite exciting. Of course, as it turned out, Sharon thought differently.

But, as in all friendships, the bumps only succeeded in deepening my relationship with Sharon. And, in the more than 20 years that I've known her, she remained a true friend, someone to be especially valued in this business, where lasting friendships are as rare as visits by Haley's comet.

I can't put a finger on what Sharon has that draws people to her and makes them want to be her friends. Even your Tito Itos (Dr. Carlos Magsanoc), who always puts his emotions in check and considers ridiculous the adulation that fans shower on their idols, became an instant Sharonian the first time he got the opportunity to see and listen to the megastar.

Me, I have had lots of opportunities to see and listen to her and I feel so blessed everytime God gifts me with Sharon's presence. I always enjoy our conversations—not only because she's such an engaging, scintillating person, but also because she's such a rich source of wisdom—especially in matters relating to the heart—that comes from the depth of her experience.

CUNETA. Rich source of wisdom.

Nuggets

To illustrate, Clara, here are a few nuggets from Sharon that I have kept in my treasure chest of life lessons:

"Kapag lumabas ka sa isang relasyon, tiyakin mong hindi ka gutay-gutay. Kahit ibigay mo ang lahat-lahat sa isang lalaki, isang bagay ang huwag na huwag mong isusuko : ang respeto mo sa sarili mo."

Indeed, Clara, when to get out of a bad relationship is crucial to a woman's sense of self-worth. You should get out when you're still standing with your head up, and not when you're already on your knees and have no more tears to cry.

"Gaano mo man kamahal ang isang lalaki, kailangang may nakasarado kang pinto para sa iyo lamang. Kapag maganda ang relasyon, ito ang pinto kung saan nakapaloob ang misteryong laging magpapatamis sa inyong pagsasama. Kapag pangit na ang relasyon, ito ang pintong papasukin mo para makapag-isa ka sa sarili mo at sa iyong Diyos."

Yes, Clara, always maintain a sense of mystery for your man. Make him forever try to figure you out. If he already knows everything there is to know about you, you become boring and he may start looking elsewhere for other mysteries to unravel.

"Gaano man kapait ang naging karanasan mo sa pag-ibig, huwag na huwag kang papayag na maubos ang kakayahan mong magmahal — huwag na huwag mong isusuko ang karapatan mong umibig muli. Matuto kang mag-ingat. Matuto kang umiwas sa mga hindi dapat.

"Pero huwag kang magiging sinikal. Huwag kang magsasara ng pinto habambuhay. May katapusan ang pagluha. Karapatan mong lumigaya!"

Gift from God

My dearest Clara, the right to love is a gift from God and you should never allow anyone to have the power to take that right away from you. No man is worth killing your capacity for loving for.

One of these days, my child, I'll review the tapes of all the interviews I've done of Sharon through the years. I'm sure, you'll find them very enjoyable—and useful when you yourself pass the same road that Sharon took in her journey to loving and living.

Clara, a lot of things have been said about show business—that it is such a plastic world, populated by dogs that eat other dogs, and where people are not people but commodities to be packaged, promoted and sold. But, you know what, Clara? Show business is not such a bad place, for as long as there are people like Sharon Cuneta around to make everything worthwhile.

Focus on Rosanna Roces

Tomorrow, on "Inday, Heart to Heart," (10:30-11:30 AM, GMA 7), Rosanna Roces guests and talks about the story behind her reunion with her mother, brother and sisters; her non-traditional way of parenting; the times she's been unfaithful to her husband; her past as a GRO at Pegasus and in Brunei, and the many controversies that have hounded her colorful show biz life.

'In This World' wins best film award in Berlin

From page E1

even if people are economic migrants, what's wrong with that?" the director said after last week's screening.

Fiction became reality in the documentary-style account for one of the central characters. Fifteen-year-old Jamal, picked from hopefuls in the camp in Peshawar, has since been given leave to stay in Britain until his 18th birthday.

Winterbottom dedicated his award to the film's two central characters, picked from a million refugees in Peshawar.

"In a way it's for them as representatives of all those million people and for all the other people in the world who face the choice of whether to stay in hardship or danger or to flee and try to make a new life elsewhere," he said.

Suicidal tendencies

Winterbottom accepted his award after one of the strongest competition rosters at Berlin, whose film festival ranks behind Cannes, but alongside Venice.

Another British film, "The Hours," which has picked up nine Oscar nominations, had been considered a frontrunner for both best film and best actress.

In the end, the jury headed by Canadian director Atom Egoyan, chose all three in the triple tale based on Virginia Woolf's breakthrough novel "Mrs. Dalloway." Spike Jonze's "Adaptation," starring Nicolas Cage and Meryl Streep, was awarded a Silver Bear as overall film runner-up.

Unlike the Oscar awards, winning a Golden Bear has not necessarily provided a box-office boost.

Commercial successes

US productions, among them "Magnolia" which won in 2000 and "Rain Man" in 1989, stand out as commercial successes.

Migration and human trafficking were central themes at this year's 11-day festival, but death also featured strongly.

Suicidal tendencies came to the fore in "The Hours," The Life of David Gale" focused on the death penalty, while Spike Lee's "25th Hour" showed a fractured and depressed New York City after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Outside the competition, a series of films focusing on AIDS emerged, 20 years since its outbreak. While no films dealt with the Iraq crisis, many actors and filmmakers, such as Oliver Stone and Dustin Hoffman, used the podium to criticize US President George W. Bush's military build-up.

Still, the stars did come, from Anouk Aimee to Catherine Zeta-Jones, and "Chicago" jazzed up the start, while Martin Scorsese's "Gangs of New York" ensured a thumping finale.

Organizers expect to have sold 420,000 tickets to almost 1,400 screenings of 300 films by the time the festival ends with a special day devoted to the public on Sunday.

Reuters

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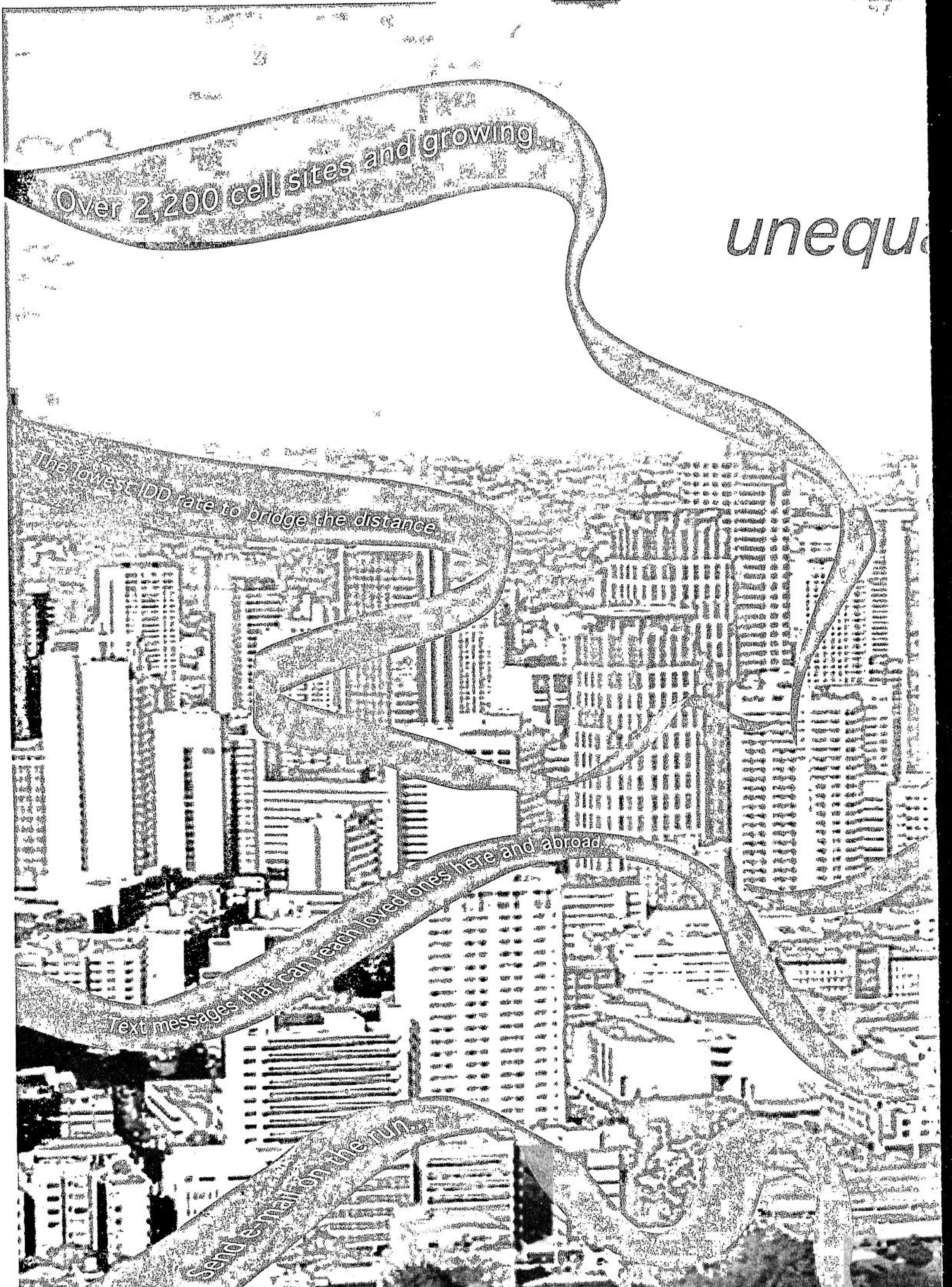
no matter what, Globe remains...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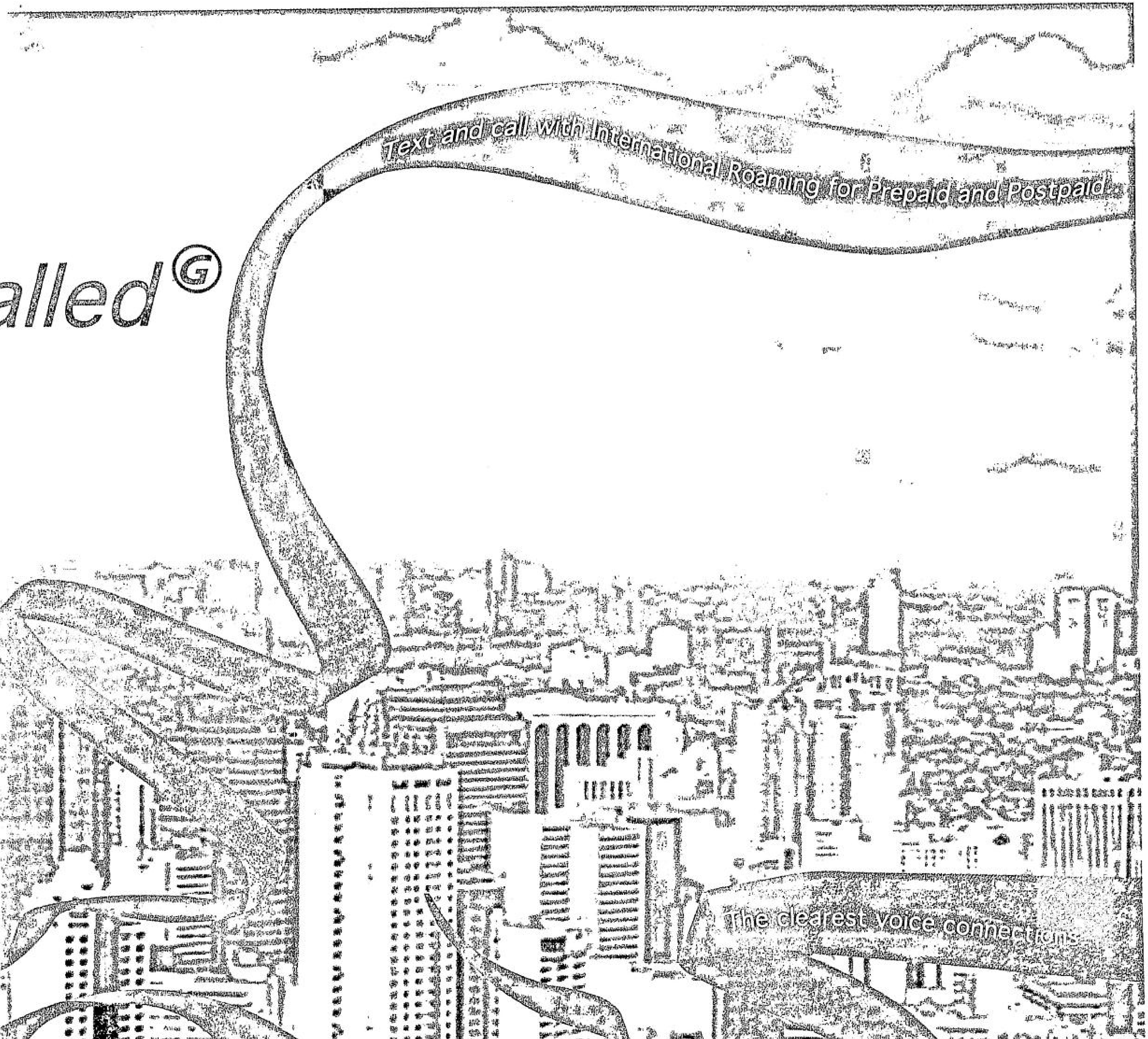
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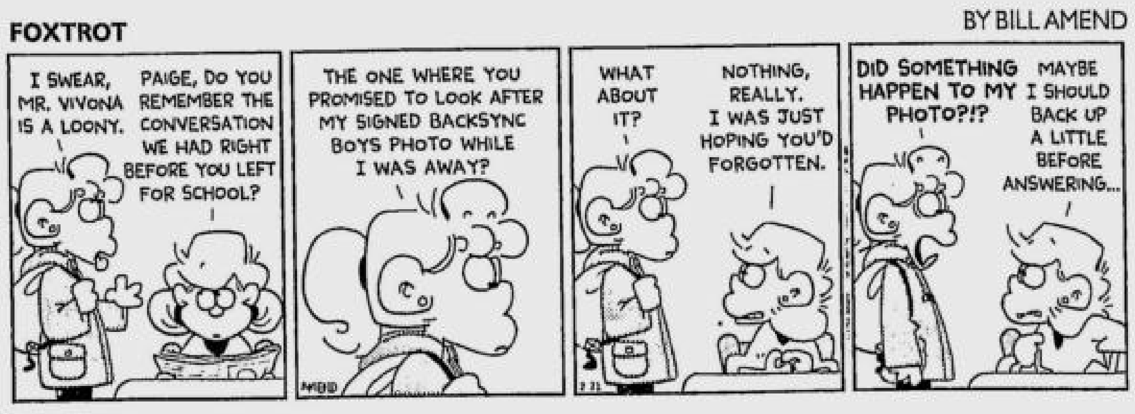
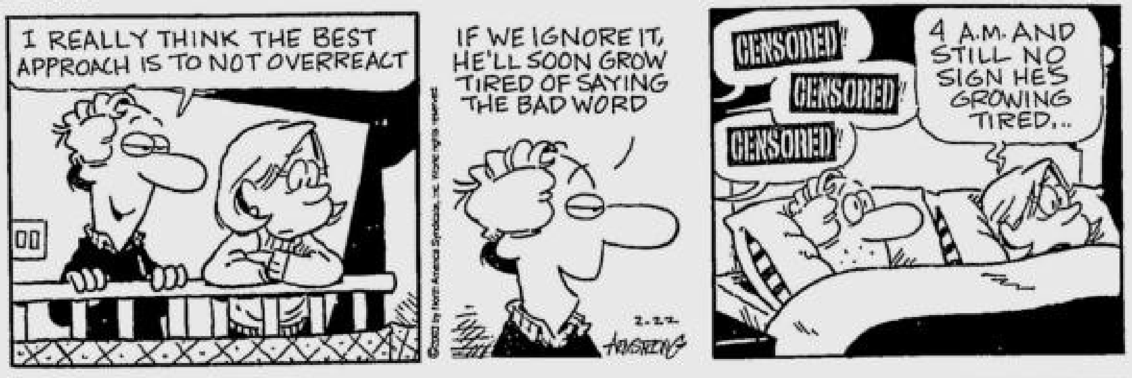
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I SWEAR, MR. VIVONA IS A LOONY.
PAIGE, DO YOU REMEMBER THE CONVERSATION WE HAD RIGHT BEFORE YOU LEFT FOR SCHOOL?
THE ONE WHERE YOU PROMISED TO LOOK AFTER MY SIGNED BACKSYNC BOYS PHOTO WHILE I WAS AWAY?
WHAT ABOUT IT?
NOTHING, REALLY. I WAS JUST HOPING YOU'D FORGOTTEN.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO MY PHOTO?!?
MAYBE I SHOULD BACK UP A LITTLE BEFORE ANSWERING...

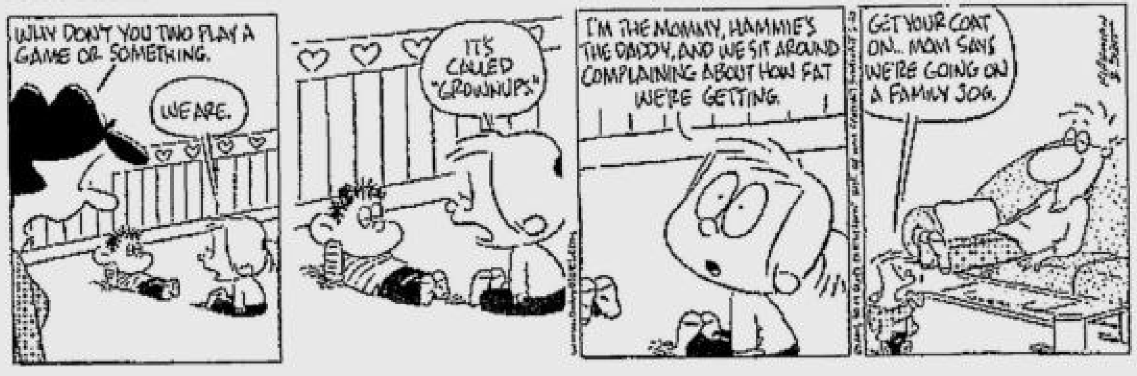
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I REALLY THINK THE BEST APPROACH IS TO NOT OVERREACT
IF WE IGNORE IT, HE'LL SOON GROW TIRED OF SAYING THE BAD WORD
CENSORED!
CENSORED!
CENSORED!
4 A.M. AND STILL NO SIGN HE'S GROWING TIRED...
2-22
ARMSTRONG

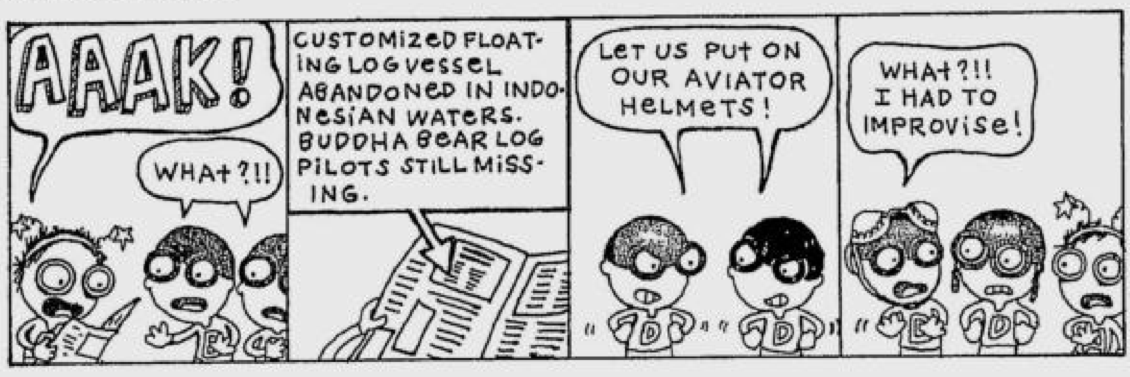
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHY DON'T YOU TWO PLAY A GAME OR SOMETHING.
WE ARE.
IT'S CALLED "GROWNUPS."
I'M THE MOMMY, HAMMIE'S THE DADDY, AND WE SIT AROUND COMPLAINING ABOUT HOW FAT WE'RE GETTING.
GET YOUR COAT ON... MOM SAYS WE'RE GOING ON A FAMILY JOG.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AAAK!
WHAT?!!
CUSTOMIZED FLOATING LOG VESSEL ABANDONED IN INDONESIAN WATERS. BUDDHA BEAR LOG PILOTS STILL MISSING.
LET US PUT ON OUR AVIATOR HELMETS!
WHAT?!! I HAD TO IMPROVISE!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are intelligent, analytical and convincing. Others respect you. You are a natural problem solver and easily rise to positions of leadership. Your natural, earthy realism endears you to others. People sense that you are honest and ethical. The year ahead offers important choices to you. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Patricia Richardson, actress; Peter Fonda, actor/director; Fred Biletnikoff, football player.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a wonderful day for a vacation or leisure activity. You want to have fun and to expand your world. You enjoy this because you're the pioneer of the zodiac.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a wonderful day to do real estate deals and to expand your family holdings in some way. Others extend you favors and gifts now. Just say thank you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a good day for shopping, negotiating and taking short trips. All your communications with others tend to boost your income or bring you happiness in some way.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): If you are at work today, you can definitely improve your job. If you are at home, think of ways to boost your earnings. These opportunities exist now.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a wonderful day for romance, flirtations and love affairs. It's also a lovely day to enjoy playful activities with children. You feel childlike and prankish.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Female relatives might help you improve your family scene or where you live today. Chaos and tension at home are likely due to renovations or moves.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Friends and groups can offer you excellent advice today. It behooves you to listen, because your career is about to take off successfully this year and next.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Discussions with a parent or someone important in your life can improve your status in the community, and possibly your income. Be receptive to the help that others offer you now.

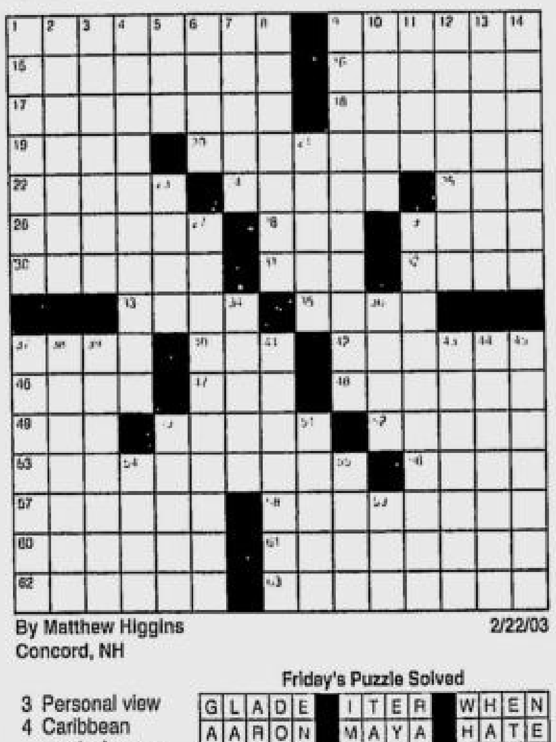
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): The Moon is in your sign today, making wonderful aspects to your ruler, Jupiter. Make plans to travel and deal with faraway places. Publishing and the law are also blessed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your ability to deal with the government or large institutions is excellent at this time. Talk to someone who can help you. You will be pleased.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your interaction with friends or groups can be helpful for you today. Your ability to network with others brings you into contact with someone who can have a beneficial impact on your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You are definitely in a position to improve your job now. In fact, in the year ahead, expect your job to get better in spurts and plateaus.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH
2/22/03

ACROSS
1 Medieval weapon
9 Getting stuck in the mud
15 Ruler of an Anglo-Saxon kingdom
16 Cicero, for one
17 Estrange
18 BLT word
19 Reasonable
20 Border notes
22 Overflow
24 Legendary birthplace of Apollo
25 Charged particle
26 Weather-map line
28 Won follower?
29 Complexion problem
30 Upper house
31 Nocturnal raptor
32 CCCP, to us
33 Monster loch
35 Religious faction
37 Eldredge on ice
40 Choose
42 Sandbars
46 Bauxite and galena
47 Neither's companion?
48 Top-level diplomatic conference
49 CD-__
50 Cheech's surname
52 Daddy's mate
53 Self-absorbed
56 Seethe
57 Sharp answer
58 Test taker
60 "The Emperor Jones" playwright
61 Ethics teacher
62 Greenstreet of Hollywood
63 Beseeches

DOWN
1 Car frame
2 Backslide
3 Personal view
4 Caribbean musical groups
5 __ Clemente
6 "Father of Frankenstein" author
7 Group of eight
8 Cabby's query
9 Stock-still
10 Presses
11 Incarnation of Vishnu
12 Sloping type
13 Whimsical ideas
14 Bad pun
21 Has the look of love
23 Recently deceased
27 With an echoing quality
29 Motorcar
34 Good loser
36 Pal
37 Matadors
38 Process of mountain formation
39 Reduced in rank
41 Three-tiered galley
43 Fertilizer ingredient
44 Containing the most calcium oxide
45 Medical probes
50 Oberon of movies
51 Cynthia of "Sex and the City"
54 Mint
55 Links transportation
59 Impair

Friday's Puzzle Solved

G	L	A	D	E	■	I	T	E	R	■	W	H	E	N
A	A	R	O	N	■	M	A	Y	A	■	H	A	T	E
F	I	N	N	S	■	A	P	E	D	■	A	L	O	E
F	R	O	G	L	E	G	S	D	I	A	M	O	N	D
■	■	■	■	A	W	E	■	■	A	L	S	■	■	■
A	R	R	I	V	E	■	H	A	T	E	■	B	O	A
P	E	A	L	E	■	T	A	C	O	■	S	O	L	I
P	A	P	E	R	T	I	G	E	R	W	O	O	D	S
A	M	I	S	■	E	K	E	D	■	E	A	S	E	L
L	S	D	■	A	R	I	D	■	S	A	R	T	R	E
■	■	■	R	I	M	■	■	A	I	R	■	■	■	■
B	Y	J	I	M	I	N	Y	C	R	I	C	K	E	T
L	E	A	N	■	T	E	E	M	■	E	R	A	T	O
O	T	I	S	■	E	R	L	E	■	S	A	N	T	A
B	I	L	E	■	S	O	P	S	■	T	W	E	E	D

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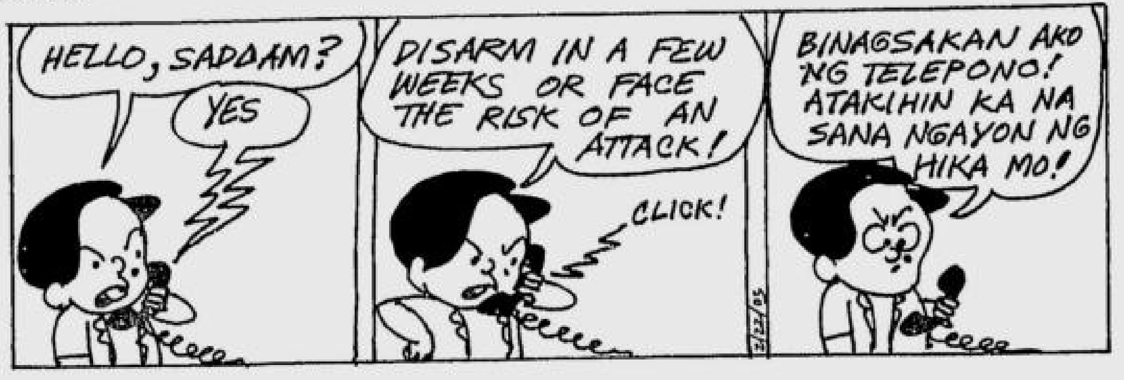
2/22/03

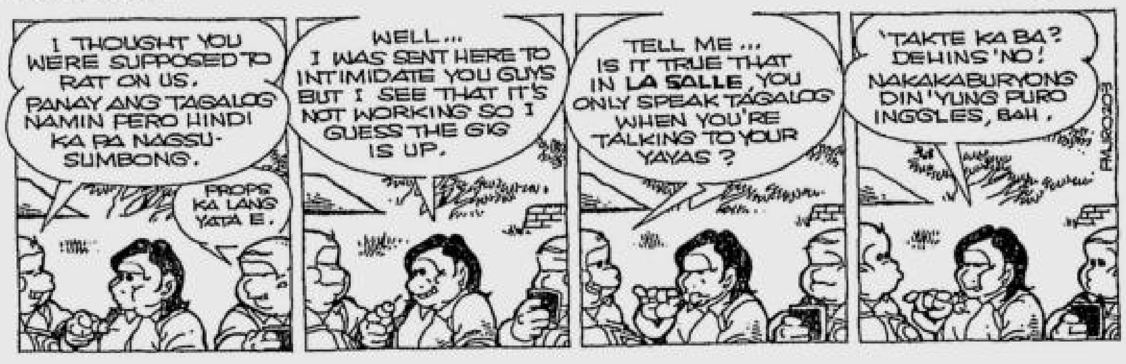
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HELLO, SADDAM?
YES
DISARM IN A FEW WEEKS OR FACE THE RISK OF AN ATTACK!
CLICK!
BINAGSAKAN AKO NG TELEPONO! ATAKIHIN KA NA SANA NGAYON NG HIKA MO!
2/22/03

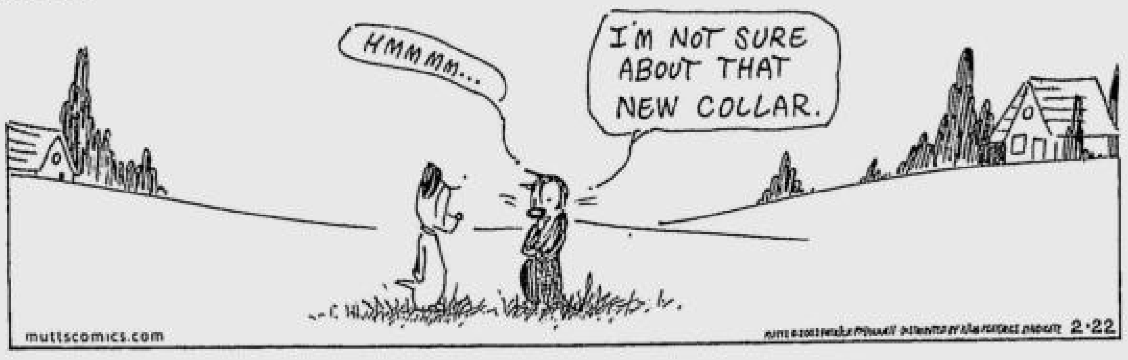
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO RAT ON US. PANAY ANG TAGALOG NAMIN PERO HINDI KA PA NAGSUSUMBONG.
PROPS KA LANG YATA E.
WELL... I WAS SENT HERE TO INTIMIDATE YOU GUYS BUT I SEE THAT IT'S NOT WORKING SO I GUESS THE GIG IS UP.
TELL ME... IS IT TRUE THAT IN LA SALLE YOU ONLY SPEAK TAGALOG WHEN YOU'RE TALKING TO YOUR YAYAS?
'TAKTE KA BA? DEHINS 'NO! NAKAKABURYONG DIN 'YUNG PURO INGGLES, BAH.
PMJR0203

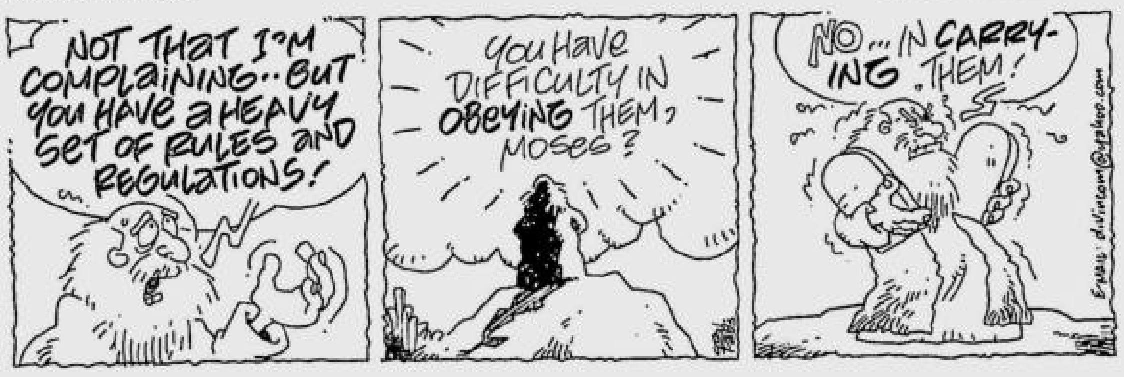
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HMMMM...
I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THAT NEW COLLAR.
muttscomics.com
2·22

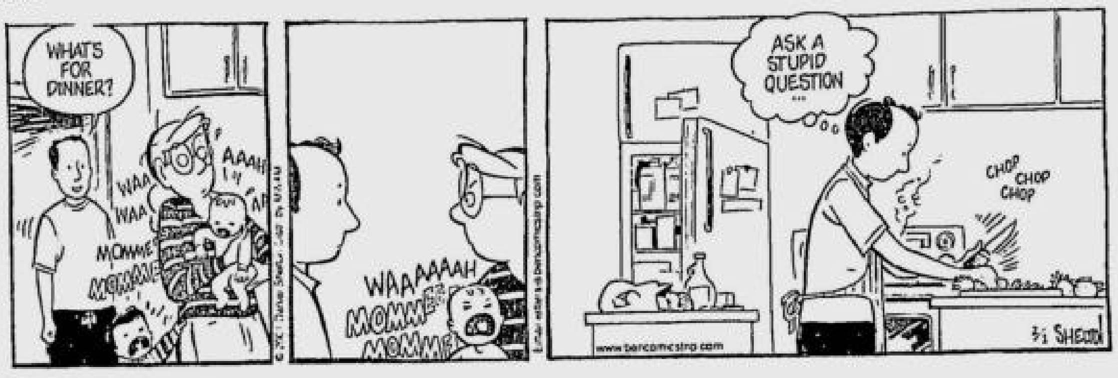
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


NOT THAT I'M COMPLAINING.. BUT YOU HAVE A HEAVY SET OF RULES AND REGULATIONS!
YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY IN OBEYING THEM, MOSES?
NO... IN CARRYING THEM!
Email: divincom@yahoo.com

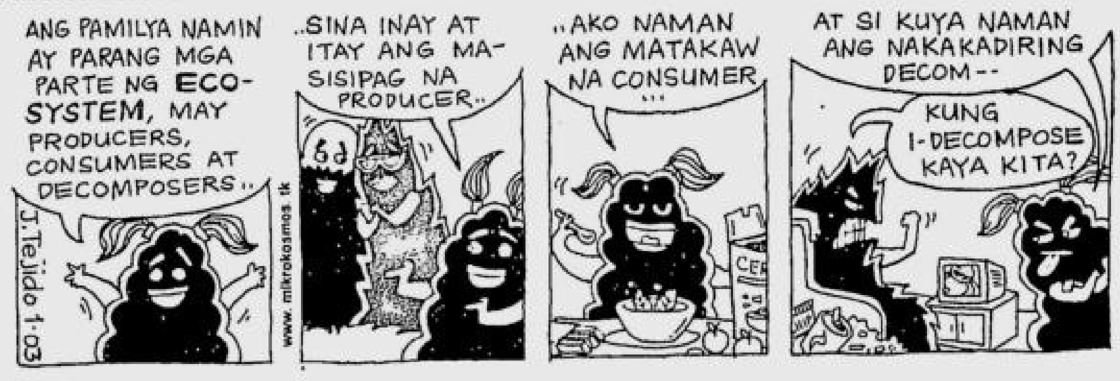
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT'S FOR DINNER?
WAA WAA
AAAH
MOMMEE MOMMEE
WAAAAAAH MOMMEE MOMMEE
ASK A STUPID QUESTION ...
CHOP CHOP CHOP
www.bencomicstrip.com
SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO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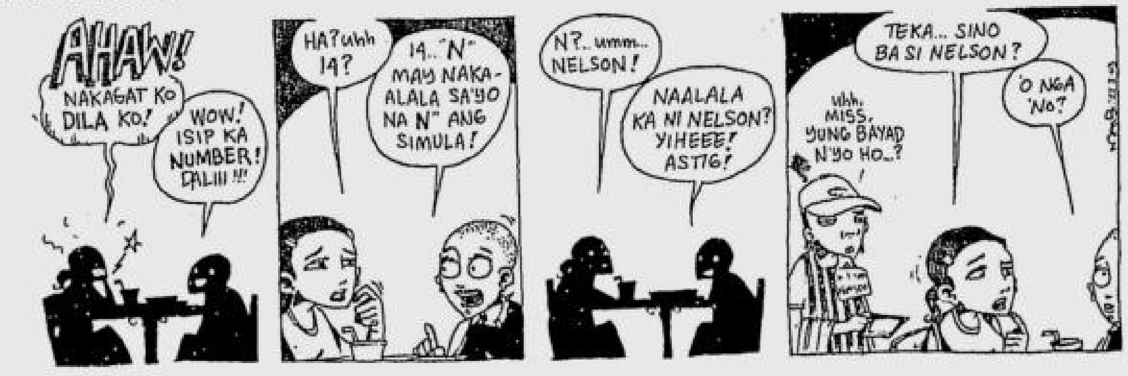
J.Tejido 1·03
www.mikrokosmos.tk
..SINA INAY AT ITAY ANG MASISIPAG NA PRODUCER..
..AKO NAMAN ANG MATAKAW NA CONSUMER ...
AT SI KUYA NAMAN ANG NAKAKADIRING DECOM--
KUNG I-DECOMPOSE KAYA KITA?

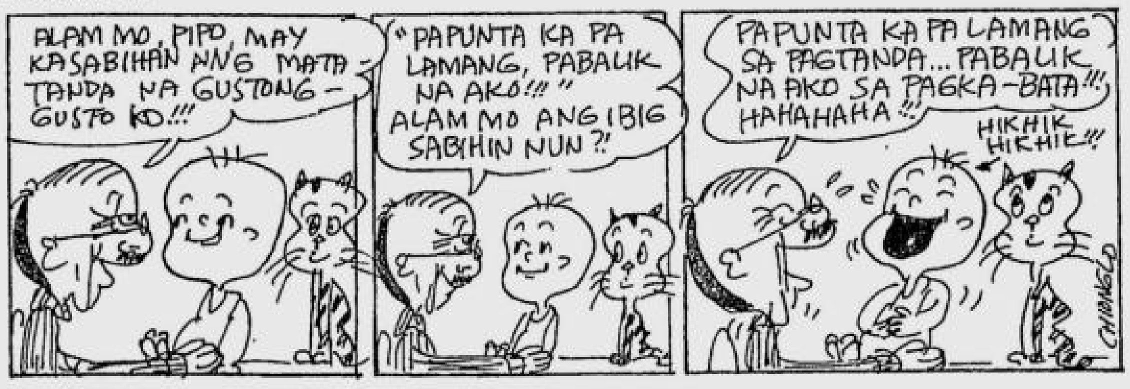
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


AHAW!
NAKAGAT KO DILA KO!
WOW! ISIP KA NUMBER! DALIII!!!
HA? uhh 14?
14.. "N" MAY NAKA-ALALA SA'YO NA N" ANG SIMULA!
N?.. umm.. NELSON!
NAALALA KA NI NELSON? YIHEEE! ASTIG!
uhh. MISS, YUNG BAYAD N'YO HO..?
TEKA... SINO BA SI NELSON?
O NGA 'NO?

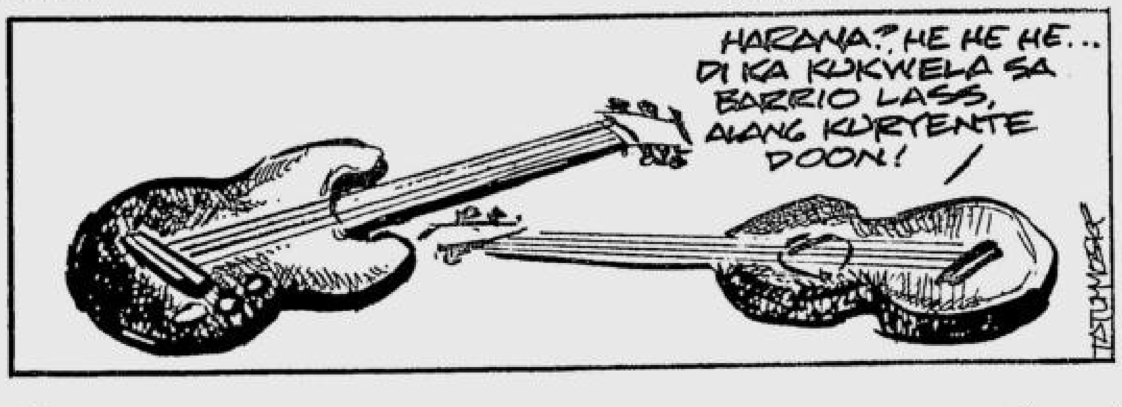
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO, PIPO, MAY KASABIHAN ANG MATATANDA NA GUSTONG-GUSTO KO!!!
"PAPUNTA KA PA LAMANG, PABALIK NA AKO!!!" ALAM MO ANG IBIG SABIHIN NUN?!
PAPUNTA KA PA LAMANG SA PAGTANDA... PABALIK NA AKO SA PAGKA-BATA!!! HAHAHAHA!!!
HIKHIK HIKHIK!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HARANA?! HE HE HE... DI KA KUKWELA SA BARRIO LASS, ALANG KURYENTE DOON!

See you at the 'Spoliarium' opera this weekend

By Ryan Cayabyab

ROBERT Seña (center) plays the acclaimed Filipino painter, Juan Luna, and Margarita Yulo-Gomez (left) and Anna Feleo (right) sing the role of his wife Paz, in Cayabyab's latest work, with music performed by the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra.

(In the midst of orchestrating my first opera, I take a break to write about what is going on in my mind.)

ORCHESTRATING is very tedious. One has to assign notes to all the instruments in the orchestra, not just in a couple of songs but in all of the music, from beginning to end. Orchestrators need to translate into a symphony what music the composer has written for voice and piano accompaniment.

Normally, the schooled composer himself orchestrates his own work. Well, ho-hum, I am normal, so now I am orchestrating my first-ever opera, "Spoliarium." Wow, an opera! Is this *really* an opera? Do people still come to watch opera, a new opera at that?

Project

When Fides (Santos-Cuyugan-Asencio) approached me regarding this project a couple of years ago, I though, well, here is another one of those non-verse, non-metered, mostly prose type librettos that I have to put music to. Why can't librettists make composers' lives simpler? I go through all the music theater pieces I have done and four of them come to mind, all versified:

The very first was "Rama, Hari," with Filipino libretto by Bienvenido Lumbera. The structure is very simple— a series of poems, or metered lyrics sung-through, depicting the life of King Rama (of the South Asian epic, the "Ramayana.") Alice Reyes (the choreographer and artistic director of the CCP Dance Company) termed this production a "Filipino pop-ballet."

For this production I also had the good fortune of writing the orchestration for a full symphony orchestra (the CCP Philharmonic Orchestra), with a rock rhythm band, *and* an ethnic musical group playing a variety of gongs and bamboo instruments.)

Senior

That was 1980. I was into mixing pop-rock, ethnic and serious music styles, being a senior at the UP College of Music by day and working as musician, composer and pop music arranger by night. The song popularized by Kuh Ledesma "Magbalik Ka Na Mahal" comes from this pop-ballet. Basil Valdez and Leo Valdez also starred in this production.

The second was "Kapinangan," a drama-musical based on Ricaredo Demetillo's "The Heart of Emptiness Is Black," with Filipino libretto by Orlando Nadres, directed by Behn Cervantes. Orlando (Dandy as we called him) had written the libretto in perfect verses. The meter he used in each song was so uniform, and thus so easy to put melody to!

I also had the great opportunity to write the orchestration, again for a full symphony orchestra (the Manila Symphony Orchestra), rhythm band and an ethnic group. Although a not so popular theater piece, I have come across industry colleagues who have very fond memories of this 1981 production. It starred Kuh Ledesma and Hajji Alejandro with Robert Arevalo.

Popular musical

Third on my list is the popular musical "Katy!" Written by Jose Javier Reyes and directed by Nestor Torre, "Katy!" enjoys an enviable niche in Philippine contemporary music theater for it contains many popular songs that have been identified as representative of the Filipino stage musical—like "Minsan ang Minahal ay Ako," "Ang Mundo ay Entablado," "Sari-saring Babae," "Aba-ba-ba Boogie" and "Pahiram ng Isang Kanta."

The verses for the songs were metered and very easy to put lyrics to. And since the musical is set mostly during the '40s, '50s and the '60s, I decided to use a big-band jazz ensemble as accompaniment to the musical. I wrote the arrangement for the UP Jazz Band in 1988.

Writing for a big band ensemble is peanuts compared to writing for a full symphony, but nevertheless as exciting, when the project is original. Mitch Valdes brought the house down with her rollicking yet searing performance as Katy de la Cruz.

"Noli Me Tangere" the musical, written by Bienvenido Lumbera and directed by Nonon Padilla for Tanghalang Pilipino, also utilizes metered lyrics and is sung-through. This work is part of a trilogy that Tanghalang Pilipino produced, including "El Fili" (based on Rizal's novel "El Filibusterismo"), and "Ilustrado," a newly written musical based on the life of our national hero, which saw its premiere coinciding with the death centenary of Rizal.

Trilogy

Did I orchestrate this? Well, the accompanying music for the trilogy ("Noli," "Fili" and "Ilustrado") is a chapter all by itself, so I will shelve that subject for now. Regine Velasquez and Monique Wilson alternated in the role of Maria Clara to Audie Gemora's Crisostomo Ibarra.

What about the other musicales' libretti? The most difficult I ever wrote music to is Nestor Torre's magnificently written "Magnificat," which took me almost three years to compose. It was totally prose. Although Nestor tried to make Act 2 easier, it nevertheless was not easy to write music to.

But guess what, "Magnificat" has become the longest-running musical of all my works! It truly is the best story ever told, and the most enduring!

Next in the level of difficulty is the only musical I had written that saw performances in key cities of Japan, even meriting a special NHK (Japanese TV) nationwide airing. "El Fili," based on Rizal's "El Filibusterismo," was written by Paul Dumol (with additional work put in by Jovy Miroy).

"Ilustrado," also written by Dumol, was another prose-y one. Well-written but definitely difficult to write music to, I swore never to do another musical with unmetered libretto!

But I did accept another one, and for the longest time this was my favorite. "Ang Larawan," the Filipino libretto written by Rolando Tinio that he adapted from Nick Joaquin's "Portrait of Filipino as an Artist," was special because I tried to capture Nick Joaquin's tone and interpreted it through music, at the same time fitting it into Tinio's language.

Actors

I requested Rolando to assemble actors to read the no-meter libretto for me and it was a great experience. I told myself that from then on, I would require a dramatic reading of the written work before I wrote down the first musical note!

This helped me tremendously in shaping the music of "Ang Larawan," whose musical style is more utilitarian than it is "for listening pleasure." Many people told me that they didn't remember a single melody in the sung-through musical, although they enjoyed the presentation very much. So there.

Like in doing "Magnificat," I believe that music must at times be a background to the story, or when necessary, must help propel, delay or accompany the action of the plot. If there is the luxury of time for an aria, then that is where those beautiful melodious lines would go.

Serious subjects

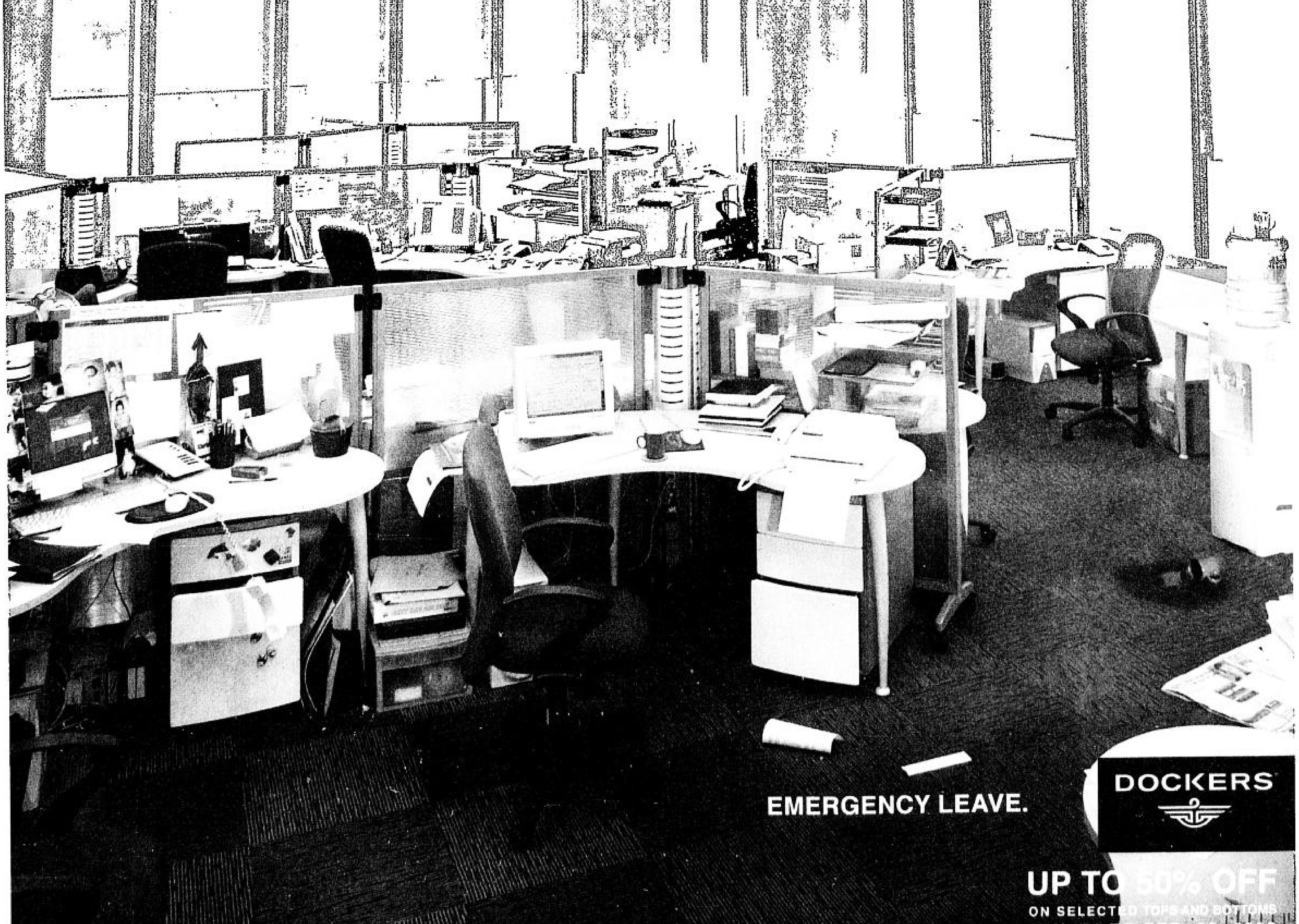
"Ang Larawan," like "Magnificat," seems more like an opera than a musical, tackling serious subjects in sung-through fashion, with challenging melodies although in contemporary popular rhythms. Of course, any composer worth his salt should be able to put music to any written work, no matter what or how it is written. The joy of writing music is more satisfying when there are challenges.

Which now brings me to "Spoliarium," libretto by Fides Asencio and directed by Alexander Cortez. The libretto was a joy to work on, and honestly, although it was totally prose, I never encountered any difficulty. Is it because of the language? "Spoliarirum" is my first-ever English musical theater piece. And it is the very first theater work that I am orchestrating *sans* a rock-rhythm section, written expressly for the exciting San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra. Totally acoustic!

Is it an opera? I will let Tita Fides do the explaining, but for now let me tell you this: Robert Seña and Margarita Yulo-Gomez are great in this one, whipping up a storm as they hit their high B's and C's!

See you at the opera!

("Spoliarium" is currently being performed at the CCP Main Theater.)



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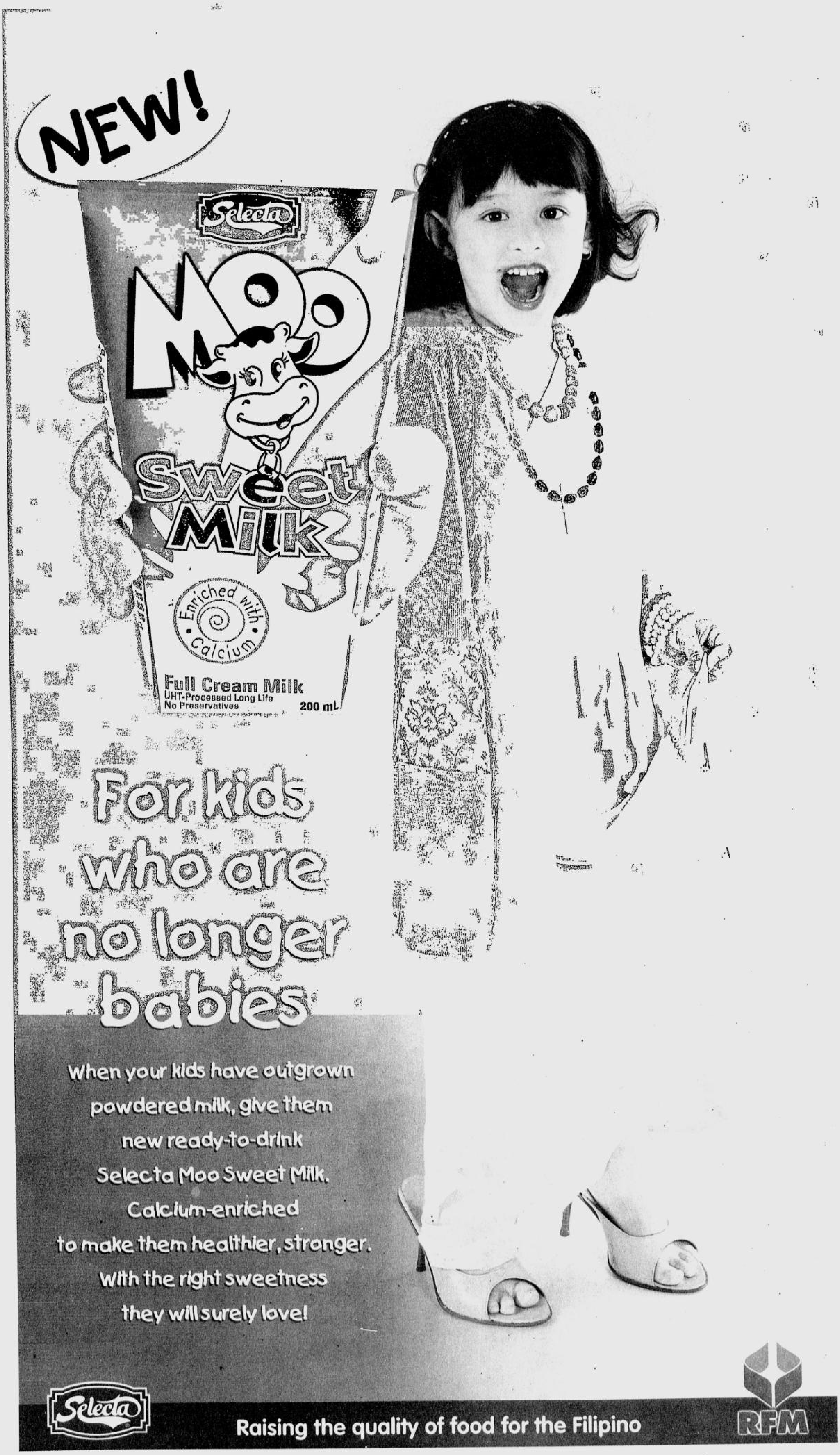
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SATURDAY *Special*

THE NEW von Trapp Children singing group, Melanie, 12, (left), Sofia, 14, Justin, 8, center bottom, and Amanda, 11, (right) are the great-grandchildren of Capt. Georg von Trapp, the retired naval officer in the "The Sound of Music." REUTERS

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New von Trapp family singers climb every mountain

By Steve James

NEW YORK—When last we saw Maria von Trapp and her adopted family of angel-voiced children, they were fleeing across the Alps from Austria, pursued by Nazis to the strains of "Edelweiss." "So Long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Good-bye" perhaps, but not quite the end of the story.

New generation

Because now, some 40 years after the musical and the movie "The Sound of Music," the hills are alive once again with a new generation of von Trapps making sugar-sweet music.

They are the great-grandchildren of Captain Georg von Trapp, the retired naval officer played in the movie by Christopher Plummer who falls for the impetuous ex-nun Maria, one of Julie Andrews' most beloved roles.

Surely even the most lonely goatherd in the world has seen "The Sound of Music" and the von Trapp children—Liesl, Louisa, Marta, Friedrich, Brigitta, Gretl and Kurt—who grow to love the free-spirited Fraulein Maria after first torturing her when she becomes their governess.

Now meet the new von Trapp Children singing group—Melanie, Sofia, Amanda and Justin—born and raised not in the Austrian Alps, but in equally rugged Montana.

Classics

They have just released a CD featuring a couple of songs from the musical—"Edelweiss" and "Lonely Goatherd"—along with such classics as "Danny Boy" and "Amazing Grace." Close your eyes and it's like hearing the darlings from the movie all over again.

There has been such a positive response to their appearances with New Age pianist George Winston, folk royalty Peter, Paul and Mary and at New York's "Ground Zero" site, that they are working on Volume 2 and an album of Christmas music.

After the von Trapps came to America before the war, the original kids sang together for 27 years, touring the United States. But despite the musical heritage of their grandfather Werner (Kurt in the movie), the new kids' own parents are not in the least musical.

Father Stefan operates a stone masonry business and mom Annie is busy organizing the lives of the four children she schools at home.

"The kids have always been singing. They used to sing along with Barney (the dinosaur) on TV and that may have had a lot to do with it," Annie von Trapp told Reuters in an interview.

Churches

Although they sang in churches, they didn't really take it too seriously until last year when their grandfather was unable to visit them in Montana.

"Opa (grandfather Werner) had a stroke and couldn't come to visit so I said to the kids 'Why not put some songs on a CD and send them to him?,'" Annie said.

They recorded some favorites at the University of Montana and it turned into a major project.

"Annie and I are not musically inclined," said Stefan during a family trip to New York where they appeared on "Good Morning America." "But I have had a rebirth since." He recalled listening to his father and his aunts and uncles singing during those long New England winters at the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, Vermont, which reminded Maria and the baron so much of their homeland.

Of the original seven children, three are still alive—Werner, along with older sisters Agathe (Liesl in the film), who is 90 this year, and Maria (Gretl). The original Maria von Trapp, who will live forever as Julie Andrews swirling around on an Alpine pasture above Salzburg, died in 1987 at the age of 82.

"Dad listened to that CD while recuperating. I blame him for all this," said Stefan.

Heritage

Their parents would be quite happy if the kids wanted to pursue careers in music. "But the neat thing is that they are really getting an understanding of their heritage," said Annie.

Not quite "Sixteen going on Seventeen," Sofia is the oldest, at 14. "I have seen 'The Sound of Music' so many times and I don't know anyone who doesn't like it. I never met (great-grandmother) Maria, but I heard she was always laughing," she said.

Sofia has been studying German, and great-aunt Agatha taught the kids to sing 'Silent Night' in German for the planned Christmas album. But Sofia is not sure if she wants a singing career. "I'm really interested in genetics," she said.

For 12-year-old Melanie, the movie is clearly one of her favorite things. "It's really neat to think it's about my family." On one of the planned albums, she and Sofia sing a duet of "Cockles and Mussels." Melanie also plays guitar, and although she would like to be a singer, she is more interested in becoming a writer or a poet when she grows up. *Reuters*

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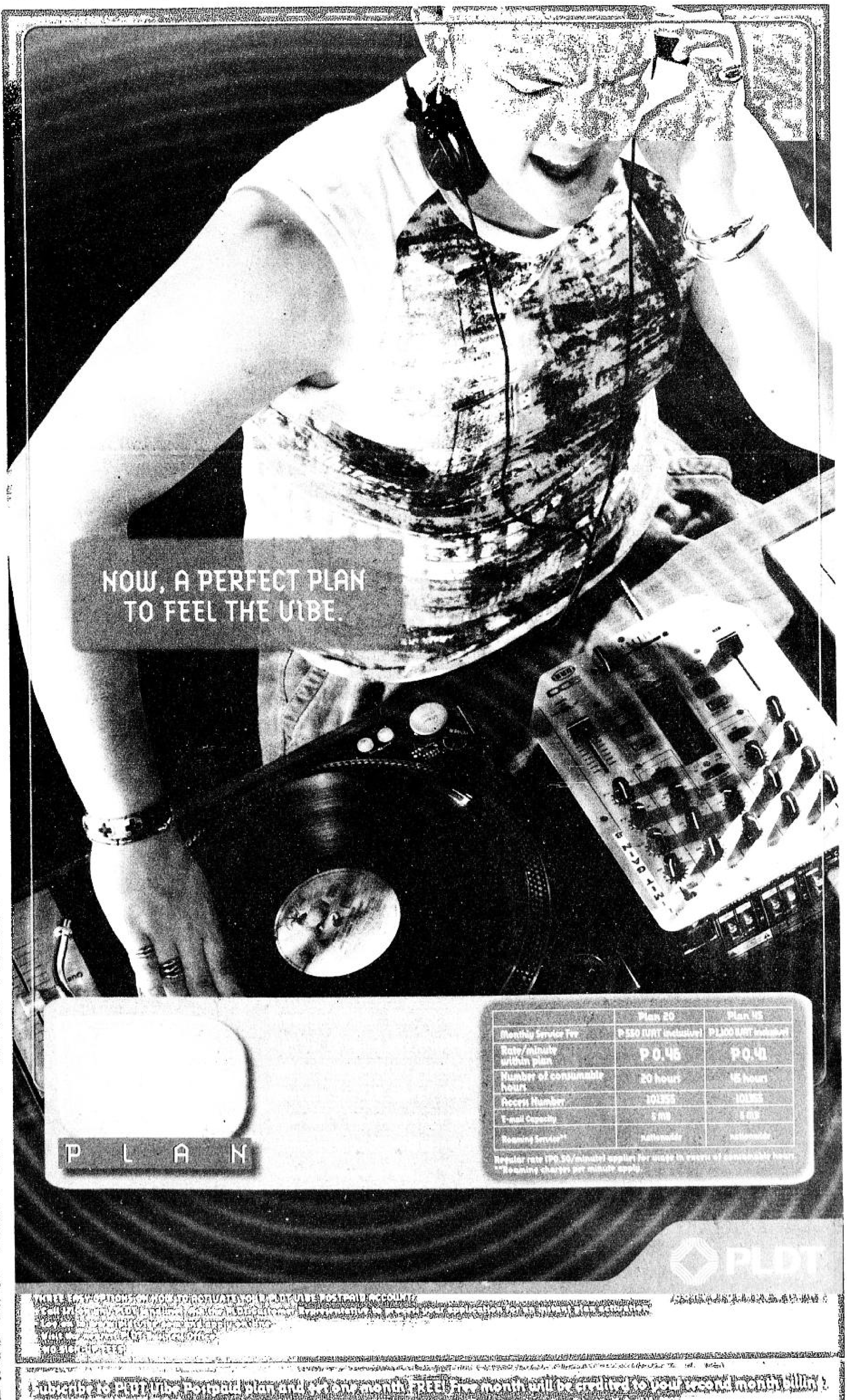
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'Daredevil' tops box office

By Dean Goodman

LOS ANGELES—Blind ambition has powered Ben Affleck to the top of the North American box office.

Vigilante

The Marvel Comics adaptation "Daredevil," in which the ubiquitous actor plays a visually challenged vigilante, grossed $47.3 million over the four-day US Presidents Day holiday weekend, according to studio estimates issued on Monday.

But even superheroes are no match for Mother Nature. The East Coast blizzard forced "Daredevil" distributor Twentieth Century Fox to cut its initial four-day estimate from $51 million, said the studio's distribution president, Bruce Snyder.

Nonetheless, "Daredevil" had no problem setting a new record for the Presidents Day holiday, beating the $23 million debut of the Denzel Washington drama "John Q." last year. It also ranks as the No. 2 February opener of all time after 2001's "Hannibal" ($58 million).

"Daredevil" marks the third consecutive Marvel property to top the box office after the 2002 hits "Spider-Man" and "Blade II." The next Marvel film reaches theaters in May when Fox releases an "X Men" sequel. "Spider-Man" set a three-day record of $114.8 million last May. "X Men" opened with $54.5 million in July 2000, and "Blade II" with $32.5 million last March.

Notoriety

"Daredevil" is a relatively obscure entry in the Marvel canon, revolving around a blind attorney who is a crime-fighting vigilante by night. But Affleck brought some notoriety to the table, thanks to massive media interest in his relationship with actress/singer Jennifer Lopez.

"Daredevil" producer Avi Arad, the CEO of Marvel's studio unit, said the character brings a timely human element to the superhero genre.

AFFLECK. Plays a blind lawyer who's a crime-fighting vigilante by night.

"If you make superhero movies that deal with wish-fulfillment and quest of love and caring for others for no benefit whatsoever, I think people relate to it," Arad told Reuters. "They respect it. Unfortunately the way this world is going, it resonates right." The film, directed by Mark Steven Johnson, co-stars TV heroine Jennifer Garner and Irish heartthrob Colin Farrell. *Reuters*

ABS-CBN is winning the ratings game

By Edmund L. Sicam

IN the movie industry, it's pretty hard to know which movies are genuine box office hits. Producers are always upbeat when it comes to revealing ticket sales. Every movie is a box-office success.

Official figures

It's different in the TV industry, since there are official figures called ratings which are considered as trustworthy indicators of how the different programs are doing.

According to a reliable source, the latest survey conducted earlier this month shows that, except for GMA's "Eat Bulaga" which holds a significant lead over ABS-CBN's "Magandang Tanghali Bayan," the Star Network's other shows generally outpaced the offerings of its closest competitor, the Kapuso network.

In the early morning slot, "Magandang Umaga, Bayan" led "Unang Hirit" by two percentage points on the average. Each rating point represents some 100,000 viewers based on a Metro Manila population of 10.3 million.

"Morning Girls" now hosted by Kris Aquino and Korina Sanchez topped "Sis" with Janice and Gelli de Belen in four of the five days rated, beating GMA by as much as nine points. However, "Sis" was also able to trounce "MG" by close to four points.

GMA's soap

"Teysi" which brings back Tessie Tomas, didn't do as well against GMA's soap "Maria del Barrio" losing by as much as six percentage points. On some days, though, "Maria's" lead is only one percentage point.

Kris Aquino seems to be doing well with viewers, as her "The Buzz" with co-host Boy Abunda outdistanced "S-Files" and her "Game KNB" is a consistent top-rater, outdistancing the soap "Habang Kapiling Ka" two to one. Boy's "Etc" with co-host Tintin Bersola, now airing three times a week, beat "Extra, Extra."

In the battle of the newscasts, "TV Patrol" anchored by Korina Sanchez, Henry Omga Diaz and Aljo Bendijo is the dominant newscast outrating "Front Page."

In the late-night newscast, though, ABS-CBN's "Headlines' is not doing as well against "Saksi." It's a neck-to-neck battle, with "Saksi" winning in three of the five days.

In the evening primetime slots, which are dominated by the local soaps, ABS-CBN's *teleseryes* were on top. The highest-rating soap was Nora Aunor's "Bituin" which was ahead of GMA's "Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw" by a mile. In some days, "Bituin' starring Nora Aunor rated more than twice the audience following of "Iibigin."

Among GMA's soaps, "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan" has the highest rating, but it was not enough to beat "Kung Mawawala Ka," which was ahead by more than 10 percentage points.

Primetime shows

Among the other primetime shows, only "Kool Ka Lang" topped its ABS-CBN competitor, "OK, Fine Whatever," but the lead was quite slim. The Star Network emerged on top in the other slots.

The highest-rating show was "Maalaala Mo Kaya," which trounced "Daboy en Da Girl" by more than 15 percentage points. Dolphy's "Home Along Da Riles" rated higher than "Daddy Di Do Du" by more than five percentage points.

AUNOR. Her "Bituin" *teleserye* rules the early-evening roost.

"Wansapanataym" was more than 10 points higher than "Videoke Challenge." The Tagalog-dubbed "Alias" led over Mel Tiangco's new true-to-life drama anthology "Magpakailanman," by more than 10 percentage points.

Tiangco, who co-hosts "Partners: Mel and Jay" with Jay Sonza, fared better in the early evening slot but the Megastar's show still managed to be ahead by more than two percentage points.

Other face-offs: "Arriba, Arriba" still leads "Idol Ko Si Kap" even after Jolina Magdangal left the series. "Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Missis" has a slim lead over "Kakabakaba," while FPJ's movies are way ahead of GMA's foreign movies.

Today, ABS-CBN's "Magandang Tanghali, Bayan" tries to outdo "Eat Bulaga" with a reformatted show that includes new hosts, games, and stars. But "Eat Bulaga" has its own surprises to defend its leadership.

Will the new "MTB" be able to chip away at the formidable lead of "Eat Bulaga"? *Abangan!*

'Romance of Magno Rubio' moves New York theatergoers

By Nestor U. Torre

IF PLANS don't miscarry, the Ma-Yi Theater Company in New York City will once again present one of its original works at the Cultural Center of the Philippines this year.

Bunkhouse

The play is "The Romance of Magno Rubio," Lonnjie Carter's adaptation of a short story by Carlos Bulosan. It's set in a bunkhouse for migrant farm workers in California during the Depression.

Magno Rubio is an illiterate Filipino worker in the States who escapes from the harshness of his life by "courting" a woman in Arkansas whose photo he saw in a lonelyhearts magazine. Since he can neither read nor write, he enlists the help of another farm worker, Nick, who concocts flowery missives for his lady-love.

Jewelry

Aside from sending letters, he also gifts her with jewelry bought with his miserable wages. He even sends her cash. It's obvious to everybody that the young woman, Clarabelle, is taking dimwitted and love-besotted Magno for a ride, but the swain himself is blissfully clueless.

The story rings with truth because Bulosan was himself a farm worker in the States, so he knows whereof he writes. One of the most influential Asian-American writers, he arrived in Seattle in 1930. He worked as a fruit and vegetable picker in Washington and California, and in fish canneries in Alaska.

Activist

Eventually, he became an activist in the labor movement in the States. He fictionalized the inhuman conditions endured by Filipino laborers in his most famous work, "America Is in the Heart" (1946).

In 1945, Bulosan was commissioned by US Pres. Franklin Delano Roosevelt to write "Four Freedoms," an essay for the Federal Building in San Francisco.

Because of his activism, Bulosan was one of the artists blacklisted by Sen. Joseph McCarthy during the anti-communist frenzy of the 1950s.

His other books include the poetry collections, "Poetry from America," "Chorus from America" and "The Voice of Bataan," as well as the novels "The Cry and the Dedication" (published posthumously in 1995) and "The Sound of Falling Light." Bulosan died in 1956.

Reviews

ORLANDO Pabotoy is Magno in Ma-Yi's acclaimed production.

But his works outlive him, and "The Romance of Magno Rubio" has won over the people who have seen it onstage. Excerpts of reviews:

Bruce Weber in The York Times: "It is the direction (by Loy Arcenas) that elevates the play, especially serving a thoroughly endearing ensemble, helping the actors animate the warmth and decency that underly their characters' desperation."

Brian Scott Lipton in the New York Post: "There may be no bouquets of flowers or Michel Legrand love songs in 'The Romance of Magno Rubio,' but this unusual fable has much to say about the world's most delicate emotion.

Reaction

"Playwright Carter uses an intriguing mix of verse, music and dialogue… What little plot there is turns on what Magno's reaction will be once he learns, after years of correspondence, that Clarabelle is little more than a con woman.

"Arcenas has coaxed impressive performances from his five actors, notably Orlando Pabotoy as Magno and Art Acuña as Nick."

Elias Stimac in Back Stage: "Magical, mercurial, memorable and moving, 'The Romance of Magno Rubio' is a delightful playgoing experience. Carter's script is economic and eloquent, perfectly set into motion through Arcenas' inspired staging.

High praise

"The acting is so intelligent and emotionally adept that the entire ensemble deserves high praise."

The favorable reviews increase our eagerness to see the play staged at the CCP this year. We hope that Ma-Yi's Executive Director, Geroge Ortoll, gets the funding and travel subsidy needed to make this possible. Paging Philippine Airlines! Filipino theater lovers in New York City and Metro Manila will be properly grateful.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM FEB 22 - FEB 28

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	[illegible]
[illegible]	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Bida si Mister, Bida si Misis 9:30 FPJ Action Cinema 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 7:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 11:00 Business and Leisure	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night Specials 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	6:00 Dragon Ball Z 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema *Takot ako sa Darling ko* 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Real TV 6:30 Entertainment Tonite 7:00 7 Days 8:00 Largo 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Shake, Rattle & Roll Part 1*	7:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Kagat ng Dilim	6:00 Travel Time 6:30 The Beast Machines 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! News Weekend 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Robert Duvall* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *All That Jazz* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *New Zealand*
[illegible]	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Dong Puno Nightly 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 11:00 Unlimited Driving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Shake, Rattle and Roll Part 2* 11:00 Sunday Report	6:00 PBA Games 8:00 Sinemaks 9:30 Viva's Hot Hits 11:00 El Shaddai	6:00 Invasion America 6:30 Digital Tour 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Yes Dear 8:30 Just Shoot Me 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The West Wing 10:30 Scariest Places on Earth 11:30 News Central	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! Coming Attractions 6:30 FYE 7:00 E! Original Specials 8:00 Rank *Most Eligible Bachelors* 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner 10:00 Movies on E! *A Certain Smile*
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Alias 10:30 Night Visions 11:00 Headlines	6:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 PBL	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Bugs 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Two	6:00 Frontpage 6:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:20 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:00 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:40 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:20 Magpakailanman 10:30 Saksi 11:00 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Wyred 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Simpsons 8:00 Jag 9:00 24 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City	6:00 PBA Games 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 IBC News 11:00 Ronda Trese	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Voltron 3rd Dimension 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Bully 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes *Kate & Leopold* 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On *Baja*
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	6:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Magpakailanman 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Wyred 6:30 Entertainment Tonite 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Real TV	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:00 Kurochan 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Diwa 11:00 IBC News 11:30 Travel and Trade	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Voltron 3rd Dimension 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Smallville 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up *Hugh Jackman* 7:30 Mysteries and Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Jamaica*
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Bituin 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Whattamen 9:30 Klasmeyts 10:30 Headlines	6:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 MMDA on The Road 11:00 Magbuhay Professional 11:30 Concert at the Park	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Friends 9:00 That's 70's Show 9:30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Task Force Siyasat	6:00 Frontpage 6:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:20 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:00 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:40 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:20 Beh Bote Nga 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Wyred 6:30 Entertainment Tonite 7:00 Sabrina 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Fugitive 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Real TV 11:00 Wrestling	6:00 PBA Games 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:00 IBC News 10:30 Viva's Hot Hits 11:00 IBC News 11:30 People First	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Voltron 3rd Dimension 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 E! Features *When A Man Loves A Woman* 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Mexican Riviera*
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Gus Abelgas Nag-uulat	6:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 PBL	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Shulato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Single 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:00 Frontpage 6:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:20 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:00 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:40 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:20 Da Boy and Da Girl 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Debate	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Wyred 6:30 Entertainment Tonite 7:00 Clueless 7:30 Sister, Sister 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Real TV	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:00 Kurochan 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 S.A.T.S.U. 11:00 IBC News 11:30 Good Take	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Beast Machines 7:00 Amazing Race 8:00 Barkada Nights 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close-Up *Tom Hanks* 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Bahamas*
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101	6:00 Paco Park Presents 7:00 The Working President 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 14th Asian Games (Replay)	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Lazer Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Frontpage 6:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:20 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:00 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:40 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:20 Bubble Gang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Wyred 6:30 Entertainmnet Tonight 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Malcolm In The Middle 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 NYPD Blue 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday *Regine Velasquez at the Movies Part 2*	6:00 PBA Games 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Viva Hot Hits 11:00 IBC News 11:30 Mode + L	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Beast Machines 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Justice League 8:00 Survivor: Thailand 9:00 Angel 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 E! Features *Sleepless in Seattle* 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Caribbean*

Quiet interlude with Legrand

By Edmund L. Sicam

AT the Valentine concert of Michel Legrand and Regine Velasquez, there were no sexy dancers or fancy lighting to jazz up the musical numbers. The Maestro didn't even say a word during the first part of the show, which lasted some 45 minutes. The audience didn't seem to mind, however.

After all, this was the reason they filled the PICC Plenary Hall for three straight nights, to listen to Legrand's music even if many of the selections were not that familiar.

Regine unplugged

For her part, Regine held back her powerful voice for many of the numbers, something she's never done in her other concerts. Legrand's music and the enchanting lyrics were enough to get the audience to applaud heartily.

At cocktails held a few days before the concert series, Legrand was loath to make comparisons between Regine and Kuh Ledesma, who was his guest at last year's Valentine show. Last Sunday though, he paid tribute to Regine as someone whose singing made his compositions sound better than they really were.

As he was leaving the cocktails, I managed to get a few words from the maestro:

You have a birthday coming up, don't you?

Yes, Feb. 24.

You'll be how old?

This year, 71.

Does composing get better with age?

Yes, definitely. I write better now. I hope so and I think so.

More experience

Why is that? Is it because you have experienced more?

Because I have more technique and yes, because I have more experience.

So your composing powers haven't diminished?

Oh, they've even increased. When I was young, I wanted to do every possible style of music. Music is all I know. I've done classical, jazz, whatever.

You haven't done rap, though?

It wouldn't be difficult, but it's not for me.

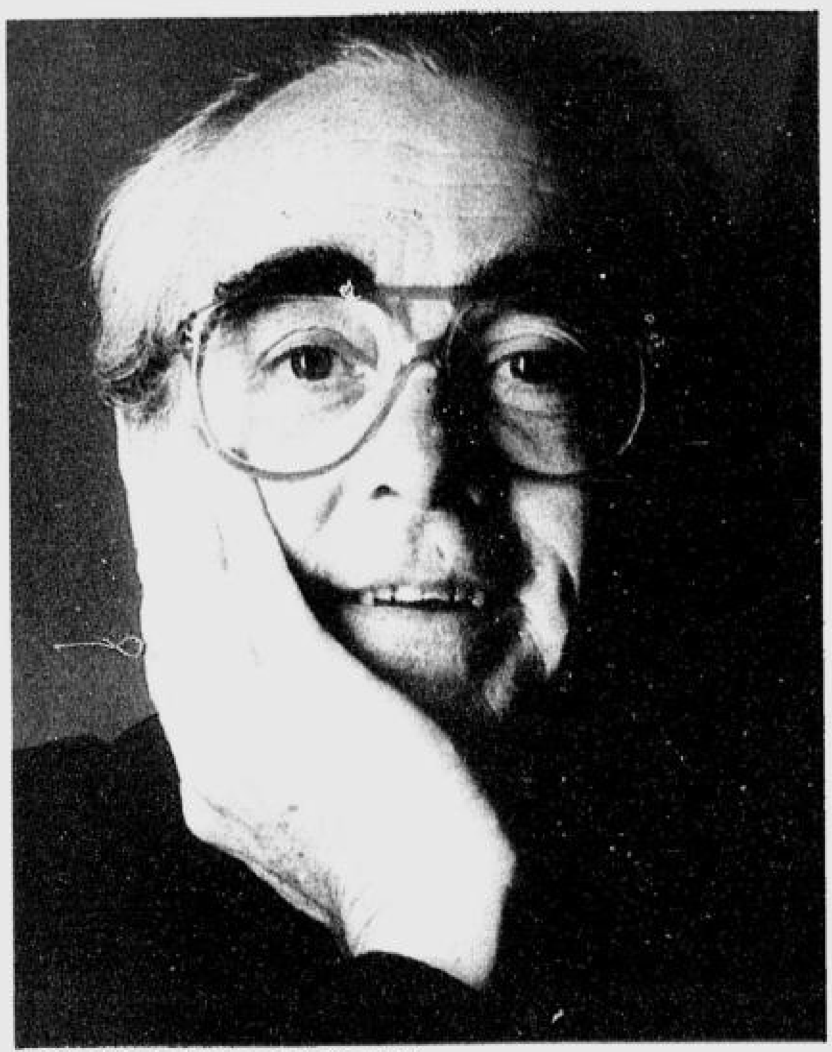
What do you think of contemporary pop music?

Some are good, others not so. In contemporary classical music, everything is pretty bad. The problem with modern pop music is that many composers don't know how to compose, cannot even read music or talk about music.

With technology, they think that you can write something, push one key and something plays. They can create an illusion for a while but not for long. They don't have the heart.

Most of their stuff is pretty mediocre. I believe something good should be passionate. I believe in intensity. People who write now don't write with intensity. They write to make money.

What is it about France that influences your music?


LEGRAND. Passionate about his music.

Important

I can be anywhere in the world. I can function anywhere. I can stay anywhere for a long period of time because what I'm doing is important.

I think if you had been born Michael something in the US, you'd be different.

I think it has to do with dedication. I was lucky enough to work at the Conservatory in Paris with some great teachers. That was a great, great chance. Luck!

What are your musical influences?

There are many. Classical composers like Bach, Mozart. I especially like the Russian School—Prokofiev, Rimsky Korsakov.

Have you written an opera?

Yes, I have. It will be staged sometime soon. It's a popular opera, I wrote something that people can get the first time they hear it. It's so easy to write obscure music that people don't understand.

Controversial competitions we've judged through the years

By Nestor U. Torre

PERHAPS because some people find us knowledgeable, impervious to pressure and capable of being objective, we have been asked to judge many different kinds of contests through the years.

Instructive

Our career in the show biz and arts "judiciary" began in a very instructive way: the owner of a popular café where many new singers were discovered asked us to choose the best young performer of the month.

At first, we thought that our job would be a simple matter of listening to the performers sing, and choosing the best of the lot. It turned out, however, that the club owner had a personal favorite among the young singers, and he "hoped" that we would share his enthusiasm for his pet.

Alas, we chose a different singer. He wasn't as "cute" as the club owner's favorite, but he had a much better voice. The club owner tried to talk us out of our decision, offering us all sorts of blandishments, but we held our ground.

Whereupon, he announced to the people present that the contest also included a corollary "popularity" vote, for which the *audience* would be polled!

Friends

With so many of his friends in the audience, the club owner was able to swing the vote to favor his precious and obliging protegee!

Our next "interesting" judging experience was similarly controversial. We were asked to help pick the best Filipino TV shows in 50 years, and we set about viewing tapes of those shows, or when tapes weren't available, recalling how they impacted on viewers.

Trouble was, the tilt was held during the martial law years, and some of our winners were perceived to be anti-Marcos. But, they were clearly superior, so we chose them, over the dissent of the tilt's organizer, a famous media man in those days.

Organizer

Well, after failing to "convince" us and other "uncooperative" judges to change our minds, the organizer decided to—simply cancel the contest!

That's right, the search for the best local TV in 50 years was simply aborted—as though it had never even happened! They could get away with things like that during the martial law years.-And you can bet that the Famous Media Person didn't like us very much after that.

Also confounding was our stint as a member of an old movie award-giving group. Perhaps to help regain its controversy-sullied credibility, the group got our friend Behn Cervantes and us to join its voting members. Hoping we could do some good, we accepted.

Surprised

We were surprised when we were told that we had to view *60* films to determine the winners of the awards that year! Sixty films out of the movie industry's total output that year of 120 productions were thought to be good enough to be considered for awards? How could that be?

It turned out that the films to be viewed were chosen not by our group, but by their producers themselves. In other words, some producers had such a chummy relationship with the awards group that they could simply submit movie titles to them, and they would be in contention for awards.

While we viewed all those movies, many of which were terrible, we kept hearing talk about jurors being "persuaded" to favor certain films. Along with Behn, we felt so left out because we didn't get even a nibble.

Producers

Producers simply ignored us and zeroed in one the more "susceptible" judges. We were chagrined because we weren't even given the chance to say no!

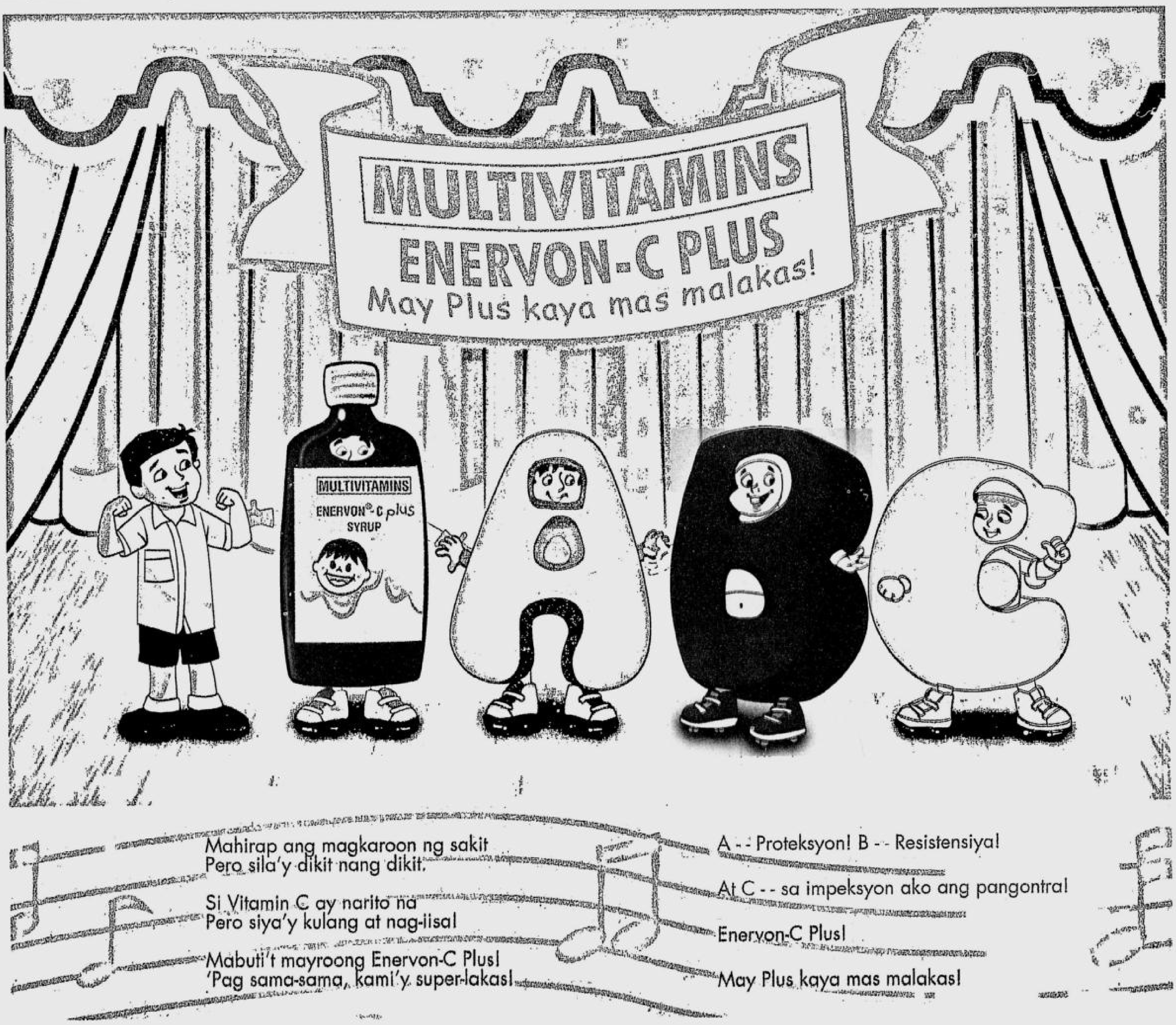
Well, as expected, the wrong winners won that year. At the awards night, the previous year's Best Actress winner heard about the *lutuan*, abd threatened to humiliate the new winner by publicly refusing to give the trophy to her. (She was talked out of her dramatic gesture of protest, more's the pity.)

Manipulation

But we were so outraged at the obvious manipulation of the results that, along with 10 other members, we staged a protest resignation that rocked the group.

Whereupon the undeserving Best Actress winer urged everyone not to pay attention to us, because we were just a "bunch of nincompops" (that's how she mispronounced the word). Our retort was to survey the people who had resigned with us (they included Nida Blanca), and we came up with a list of the academic degrees we possessed, including many M.A's and some Ph. D's, and we simply released the information to the media.

It proved our point: "nincompops," we definitely were not!



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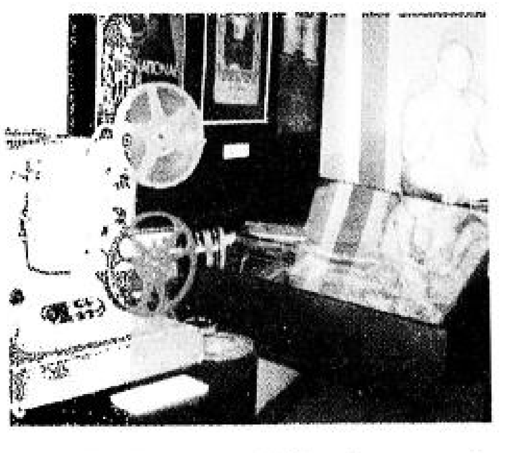
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FILIPINO/ G2

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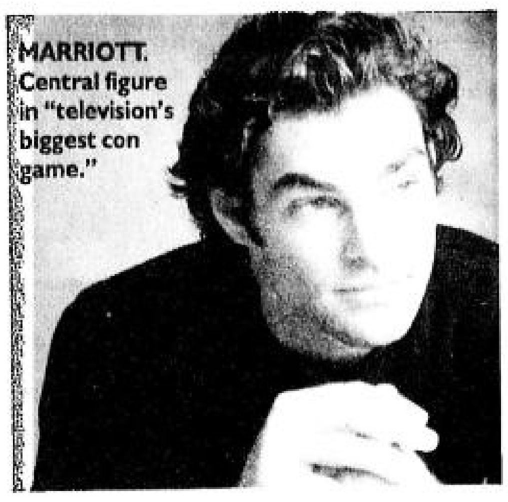
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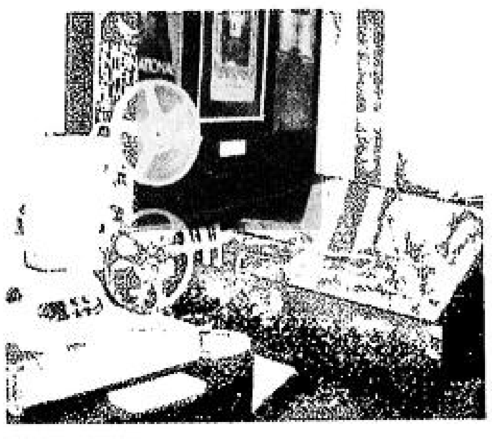
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Here comes the Hollywood bride

By Behn Cervantes

WITH the success of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," movie fans recall other Hollywood wedding pictures, and the brides in them:

TAYLOR. Starred in "Father of the Bride."

Daughter

Who can forget the lusciously beautiful 17-year-old Elizabeth Taylor in "Father of the Bride"? Certainly, a real-life father would be as proud of such a daughter as her reel father, the great Spencer Tracy, was.

The svelte Elizabeth was a dream in a satin and sheer tulle creation by Helen Rose, the same designer chosen by Grace Kelly when she nabbed her real-life Prince.

Excitement

An added ingredient that gave the film such excitement was the simple fact that the "most beautiful girl in the world" (a title given to Taylor) was soon to wed the heir of the Hilton hotel chain, Nicky Hilton. The marriage ended after only seven months, however, and started the wedding "parade" of violet-eyed Elizabeth, who collected seven more hubbies in the course of her marital career!

An equally impressive wedding, albeit in the medieval age in England, was the sumptuous marital union of the mature and serious King Arthur of Excalibur fame and his Guinevere, in "Camelot."

The passionate couple appeared destined for happiness except that the hardworking and conscientious Arthur attended more to matters of state than to the bedroom needs of his young bride, who soon fell in love with the virile and available French Knight, Launcelot.

Confused

The bride in "My Best Friend's Wedding" is the cutely naïve Cameron Diaz although the main character is not Diaz, but the confused Julia Roberts, who acknowledges rather belatedly that she is in fact enamored with the prospective groom! In the end, Julia opts for the happiness of her best friend and cheers them on as they traipse down the aisle.

In "Four Weddings and A Funeral" the juicy Andie McDowell is a wide-eyed bride with other things on her mind. Her years in modeling gave Andie the fashion style to look great in a romantic creation used by many periodicals to epitomize bridal elegance and innocence.

There are those who claim, however, that British heartthrob Hugh Grant committed a grave matrimonial faux pas when he almost stole the wedding scene away from the bride, so appealing was he to millions of female fans, who continue to drool at the sight of him to this day—Julia Roberts in "Notting Hill" and Sandra Bullock in "Two Weeks Notice" notwithstanding!

However, the most exciting brides did not wear romantic bridal gowns. In fact, they never said "I do" when they were kidnapped by seven handsome brothers in "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers."

Musical

The rambunctious MGM musical based on the Greek myth of the Rape of the Sabine Women centered around energetic dancing and singing founded on frontier spirit and lumberjack libido. Baritone Howard Keel led the macho set of brothers, while tiny but feisty soprano Jane Powell incited the sexual revolt of the kidnapped sisters.

Obviously, the world loves wedding scenes. Even "The Godfather" exploits a wedding scene to demonstrate the close family ties and devout Roman Catholic practices of the bigwigs of the much-feared Mafia!

SANTOS. Going places.

Tapika bar offers good food and entertainment

By Andy P. Bais

TAPIKA, the resto-bar located at Blue Ridge, Katipunan ave., QC, is only a year old, but it's already doing good business. What's the secret behind its success? Answer: its combination of good food and entertainment.

Partners

Tapika is an American-Indian term for "rays of the sun." Bambi Temena and Joji Jacobe, two of the five partners who own the now popular resto-bar, reveal that it was suggested by the restaurant's consultant, who thought that the word stood for "brotherhood."

Because the meaning struck them as something that echoed their friendship, they readily considered it as an appropriate word to name their resto-bar. It was only later, when the establishment was already registered, that they found out its real meaning. They liked it, too!

Invitation

"That's why we added the ray design on our stairways. We also told ourselves that Tapika could be a form of invitation, as in, *'Halika, pica-pica tayo!"*

The resto-bar's owners are all neophytes in the restaurant business. "Our only common denominator is our love for dining out, to try new restaurants and sample their food," says Bambi.

The menu that Tapika offers can best be described as eclectic. "We have a mixture of Italian, Japanese, Spanish and Filipino dishes. *Kasi, tayong mga* Pinoy, we crave for anything, *basta masarap,"* explains Joji.

Acoustic music

While Tapika's gastronomic offerings have variety written all over them, its entertainment is purely of the acoustic kind—the singers are accompanied by either piano, guitar or violin.

Why so? "Primarily, our place is not really suited for loud music *kasi medyo maliit lang ito.* Also, we don't have the technical requirements and equipment needed for full bands.

"Since we started, acoustic music *na talaga ang tinutugtog dito,* and our crowd, which is composed mostly of young professionals and students from nearby schools, really like that type of music.

Revivals

"We are surprised *nga na,* even if they are young, they go for love songs and revivals, to the extent that they jam with our singers. And we are encouraging them to do that," Bambi says.

They change their line-up of performers on a regular basis. The longest run is two months. They have a different schedule of performers every week. "This way, *hindi sila pagsasawaan ng tao,"* Joji shares.

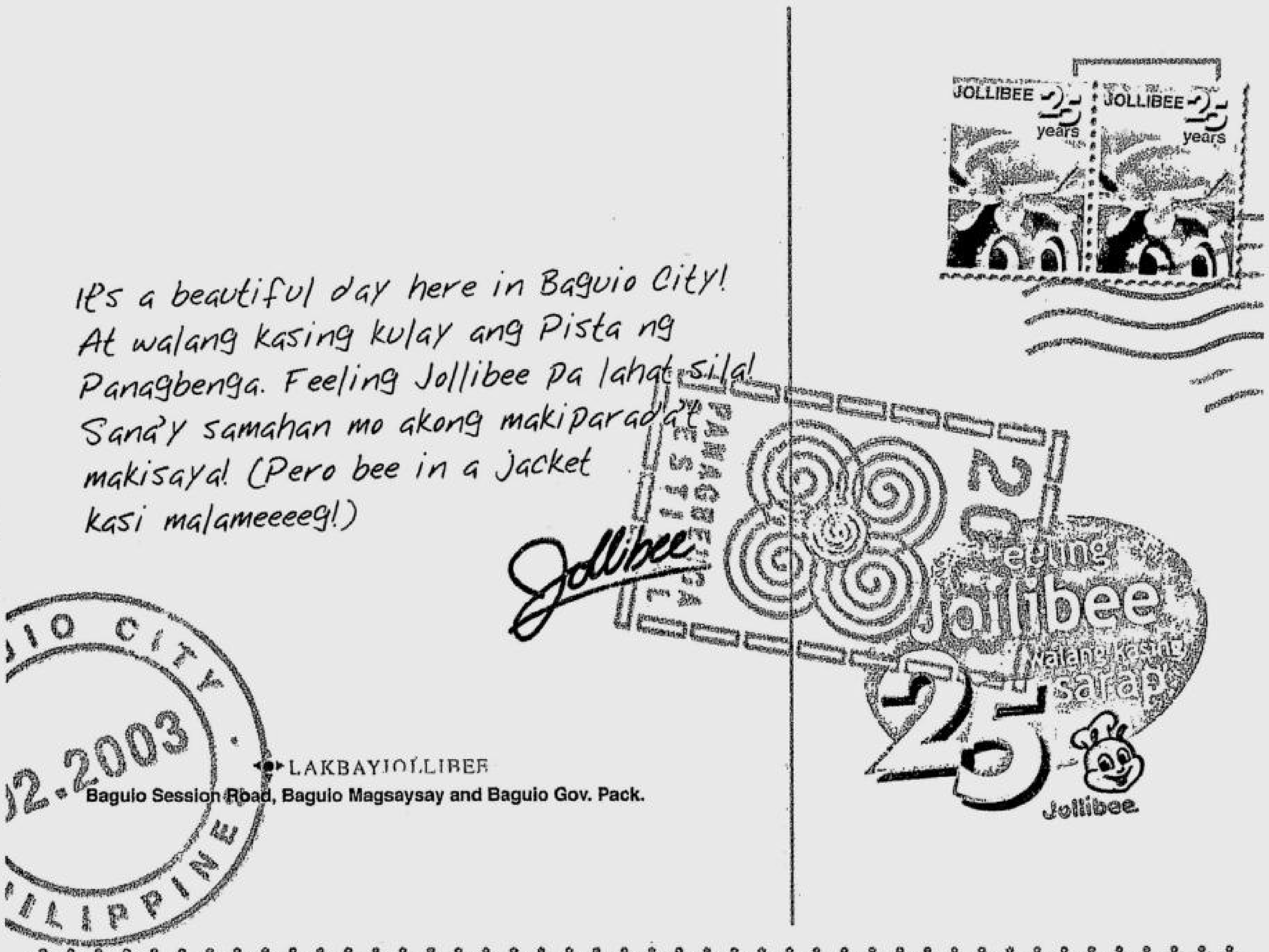
For this reason, they are always open for auditions. Call 647-8033.

Bambi and Joji are really proud of their talents: Paolo Santos has been one of their regular performers for a long time now. "Paolo is one of our crowd-drawers, *kasi marunong siyang magdala ng* crowd. *Simple lang siya at walang ere,"* Joji beams.

Big factor

Indeed, Paolo is going places. And he has always credited his exposure at Tapika as a big factor. He is reportedly set to invade the recording scene. Incidentally he will be performing tonight at Tapika (entertainment starts at 9:30 p.m.).

Tapika's schedule of performers for the last week of February: Sunday—Invocan; Monday—Acoustic Dream; Tuesday—Dominic and Burton; Wednesday—Soul Acoustic; Thursday—U-Turn, and Friday—Jimmy Bondoc.



It's a beautiful day here in Baguio City! At walang kasing kulay ang Pista ng Panagbenga. Feeling Jollibee pa lahat sila! Sana'y samahan mo akong makiparada't makisaya! (Pero bee in a jacket kasi malameeeeg!)

Jollibee

LAKBAYJOLLIBEE
Baguio Session Road, Baguio Magsaysay and Baguio Gov. Pack.

Negative examples set by show biz people

By Nestor U. Torre

WHAT examples do our show biz folk set, particularly for young viewers and listeners? Let's see what they do, fully covered by the media for maximum impact and influence:

Love child

•A young star who's borne a child out of wedlock has *another* love child by another man who can't or doesn't care to marry her.

Example set: some lessons are difficult to learn for some (weak) people, so just go with the flow and hope you bump into good husband material the next time around.

And constantly rationalize your irresponsible behavior by piously stating, "Well, at least I did it out of love—I'm not a prostitute. And I work hard to take good care of my (love) children!"

•A star with a love child dallies with a man who's separated from his wife, even as they pretend that they're no longer seeing each other.

•Example set: Another no-brainer non-learner who makes her family suffer even as she professes to love them to bits. Her logic: "I deserve to be happy!" Yes, but at whose expense?

•A producer boasts about going to mass and receiving communion everyday—but produces one sex flick after another, many of them starring young beauties who have been persuaded to go brazenly bold in order to fast-track their ascent to stardom.

Split-level Christianity

Example set: it's OK to be hypocritical and to exploit young women, as long as a lot of money can be made. So, this is what they mean by split-level Christianity!

As for the young women involved, their brazen example tells other women out there that it's alright to debase yourself, embarrass your family and contribute to the country's moral pollution, as long as you achieve your dream of stardom, by hook, crook and wet look!

All the while, the new boldies say (again), "Well, at least I work hard—I'm not a prostitute!" Yeah? Tell that to the streetwalker around the corner. The minute she sees you, she'll recognize a soul sister.

Film freedom

•An acclaimed director makes a graphic sex flick to keep his career afloat, but rationalizes his cynically "practical" move by even more cynically proclaiming, "This is an art film! If you cut out one frame of it, that will constitute an attack on film freedom!

"I made this movie to liberate all Filipinos from their benighted sexual repressions. And to reflect all the sordid things that are really happening in our society! How dare you call this an exploitation flick?!"

Example set: You can huff and puff and piously lie through your teeth to hide your true commercial motive—but few will believe you.

Nondescript stud

•Two cheap starlets fight in public over a rather nondescript stud. They wail on and on about love, friendship and betrayal, while the stud smirks, so full of his mostly imagined potency and sex appeal.

Example set: Some minor players will do *anything* to get their 15 seconds of "fame." And some viewers will watch *anything* on TV, the cheaper and more lurid, the better.

Another negative example is set by the TV shows that devote so much precious broadcast time to these utterly inconsequential imbroglios.

People are subliminally informed that, if they want to end up on TV, all they need to do is pick a cheap and tawdry fight with somebody equally *palaban,* or be certified insane—preferably both!

Century Tuna cooking contest

From page G3

gling home and career at such a hectic pace. But I have discovered a heaven-sent food on grocery shelves: Century Tuna! Rich in Omega-3 that keeps the heart young and healthy, it is an answered prayer to busy homemakers like me.

According to Gigi Angkaw, Century Tuna's group culinary directress, Century Tuna is available in flakes, solid or chunks variants and can be presented in endless ways: as sandwich filling, *lumpia, siomai,* pot pie and omelet; pastas and salads, or as *ulam* with rice.

"To help promote healthy dietary habits, we have launched Century Tuna Culinary Meet 2003, a cooking competition open to all residents of the Greater Manila Area," Gigi announces.

"The cooking contest has two divisions: Amateur and Student. All participants are required to submit original recipes using Century Tuna in Oil or Water as the main ingredient and at least one of the following products: Hunts Tomato Sauce, Kraft Cheesemelt, Kraft Mayo, Pillsbury All-purpose Flour and Cornstarch, Homepride pasta and Jolly (canned vegetables, soups and cooking oil)," she explains.

Deadline for submission of entries is on Feb. 25 for the Student Division and Mar. 7 for the Amateur Division.

Contact Mandy at 522-5185 or 89 and 5221905 or CF 0916-7060-130, or e-mail mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph

Filipino . . .

From page G1

screenings to draw people in here."

There are a countless number of movie memorabilia in the exhibit that every Filipino should see for himself. The exhibit runs until March 31 at the NCCA lobby, Intramuros, Manila. Call 5272192/96 or email info@ncca.gov.ph.

KUALA LUMPUR
WORLD FILM FESTIVAL
2003

ASIA'S newest filmfest was conceived by Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed (inset).

Film festival for peace unreels in Malaysia

By Nestor U. Torre

MALAYSIA'S prime minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, has won the admiration of film people from different countries by putting up an international film festival in Kuala Lumpur with a unique objective: to encourage the production of films that promote peace, harmony, non-violence and non-discrimination.

Visionary

They know that's a highly "uncommercial" thing to do, since many hit movies these days exploit the "appeal" of violence, so that makes Mahathir a greater hero and visionary in their eyes.

That's why 81 of them accepted his invitation to attend and screen their pro-peace, anti-war films at the first edition of the filmfest from Feb. 16 to 18. They came from 40 countries and comprised a veritable United Nations of the cinema that heartily approved of the prime minister's daringly "impractical" "movies for peace" festival scenario.

At the filmfest's glittering opening ceremonies last Feb. 16, Mahathir detailed his vision for the other peace advocates who found common cause in his new festival. He spoke so clearly and forcefully that we were able to jot down the major points he wanted to stress:

Violent times

"We live in violent times, full of oppression and war. Tragically, it is the innocent who are being killed by the millions in wars, big and small. Violence has taken over our society so completely that some kids shoot their own parents. There appears to be no end to the escalation of violence in our midst.

"Sadly, we must blame some of this on the negative influence of media, including film. Movies often include violent scenes. This influences our customs and behavior today—somehow, we act as violently as though we were in a film ourselves.

Formative years

"This affects our thinking, and this is especially true of our young people. Violence catches them at a most vulnerable time, during their formative years, when they're still developing their value system.

"We should set our young people on the right path by instead using movies to promote non-violence. Towards this end, we have thought of putting up this festival to reward the film people all over the world who avoid showing violence in their movies, and instead promote peace. Thus, they can help viewers develop better values.

"At this point in time, we anticipate war to break out. We are sad, because we know it is the innocent who will be killed, if war does break out. There is no fear now about killing huge numbers, since the parameters of war have changed.

Cycle

"Some of us now feel that we should use violence to solve our problems—the cycle never ends!

"We must break that cycle of cruelty. That is the special theme of this festival. We hope it can be held annually, not just taking the opportunity of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit, which will be held here next week.

"Film people like you have a lot to contribute in the campaign against war, because you are more conscious of how your movies affect people. You are also aware of your responsibility to society. The time to act and to lead is now."

Century Tuna cooking contest

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

CENTURY Tuna's culinary directress, Gigi Angkaw.

THE DEPARTMENT of Health (DOH) has declared February as Heart Month, an opportune time to remind us to protect the most vital organ of the human body from the ever present threat of cardiovascular diseases (CVD).

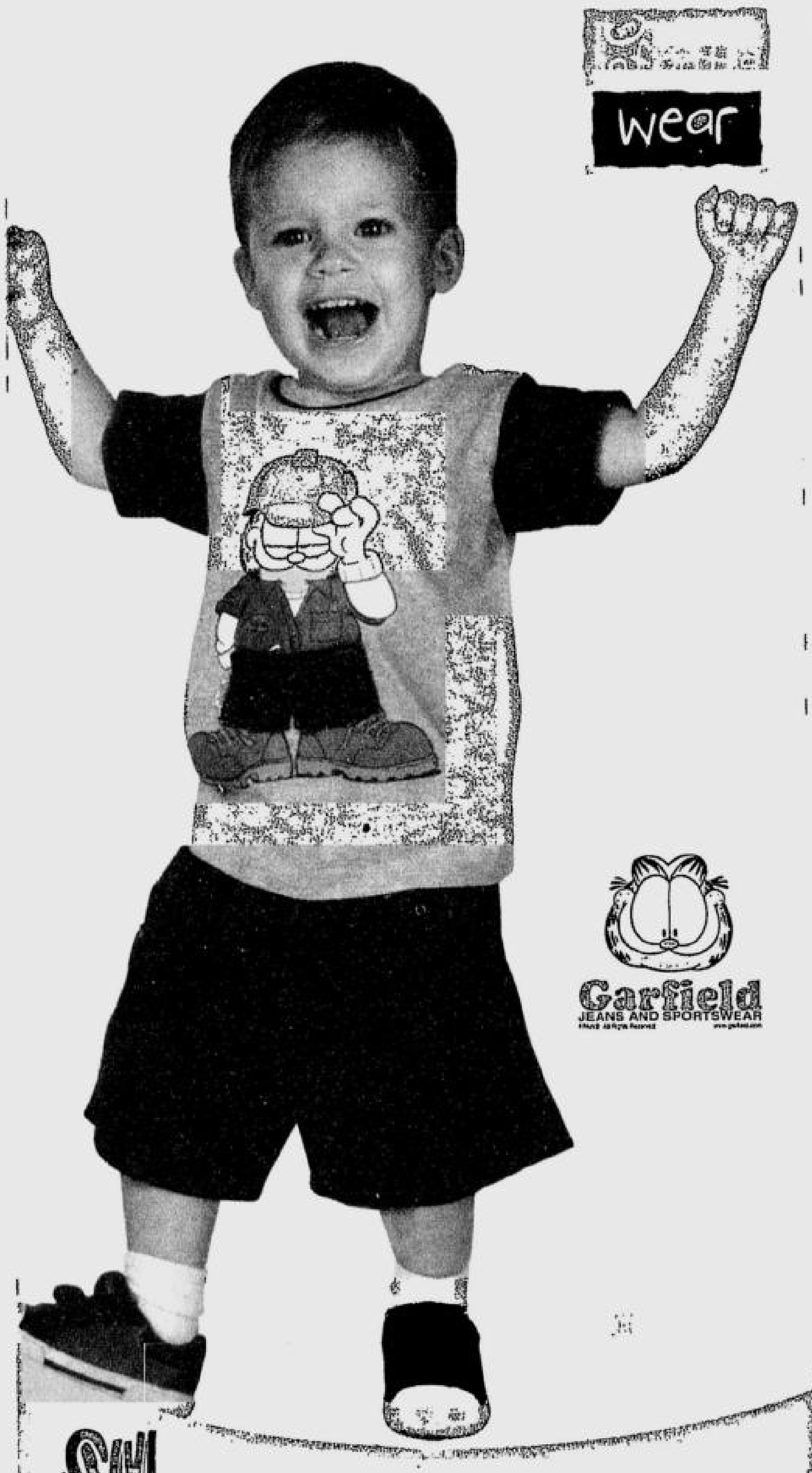
Hypertension

According to the DOH and the Philippine Heart Center (PHC), CVD accounts for 25 percent of all deaths in the country. CVD is primarily due to the increase in cases of hypertension, coronary artery disease and stroke.

All those diseases can be attributed to our lifestyle, especially our dietary habits. More and more, we are succumbing to the fast-food lure, recklessly stuffing our bodies these non-functional foods brimming with cholesterol, empty calories and sugar.

Eating a well-balanced and healthy meal seems to be a tall order nowadays, when most of us are jug-

CENTURY/ G2



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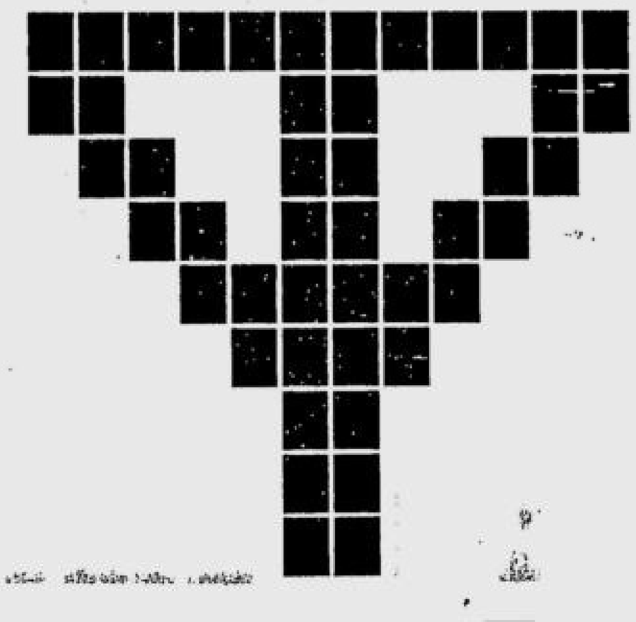

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To sign-up, bring a valid ID and find us at the following locations starting February 22 until March 9, 2003.

The SUN Shops: Robinsons Galleria 4th Flr • SM North EDSA Ground Flr Carpark Bldg • Robinsons Metro East Big R Lobby • SM Southmall Level 2 • Robinsons Starmills Ground Flr • Robinsons Place Iloilo 2nd Flr • SM City Davao

Booths: Robinsons Place Manila Level 1 • Robinsons Place Novaliches Level 1 • Shangri-la Mall Level 1 • Festival Supermall 2nd Level • Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Ground Level • The Enterprise Center Level 3(Feb 24-Mar 1) • RCBC Plaza Podium 3(Mar 3-8) • Robinsons Place Imus Level 1• Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa Level 1 •Robinsons Place Cebu Lower Ground • Robinsons Place Bacolod Level 1 • Robinsons Big R Supercenter Cagayan de Oro Level 2 • Gaisano Mall of Davao Upper Ground Level

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sun
CELLULAR

Crush ko
si Eliza!

E-mail: pr_junior_inquirer@inquirer.com.ph

Junior
INQUIRER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2003 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 7, NUMBER 21

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● Kids and Bugs Page 5
● Shirley's Pets Page 6
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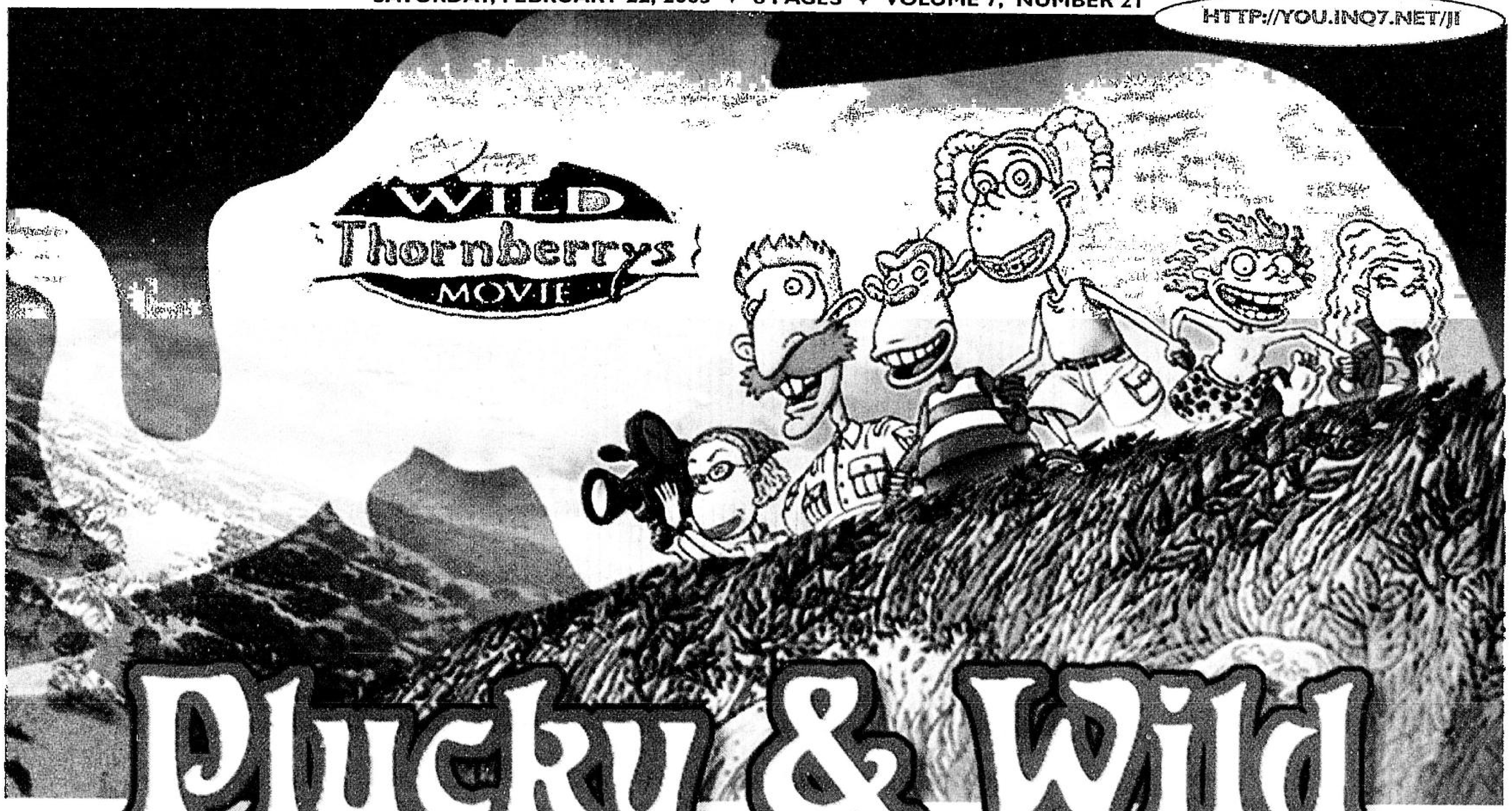


Plucky & Wild

Join Eliza Thornberry's most exciting adventure yet in the wild jungles of the Serengeti

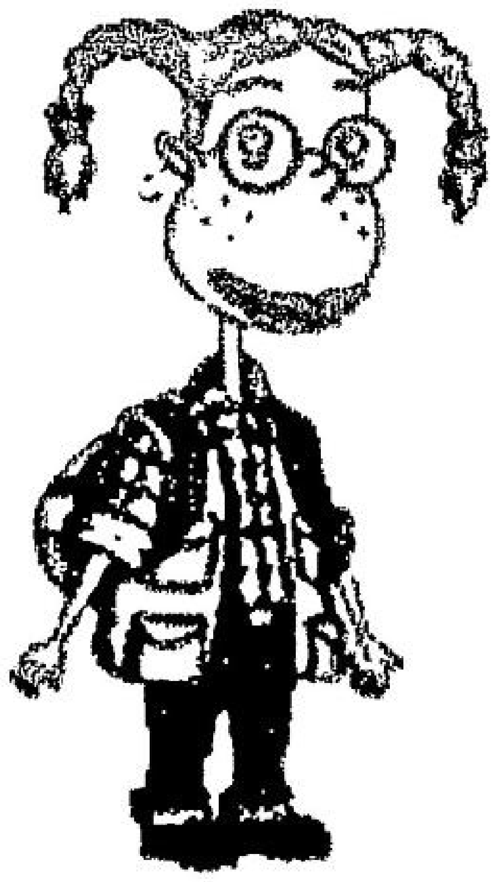
MEET Eliza Thornberry. She's 12 years old and has a way cool family. Her parents, Nigel and Marianne, are award-winning wildlife filmmakers. She has a pet chimp named Darwin and a noisy, wild adopted brother named Donnie. And her older sister Debbie? Well, sometimes she complains too much. But she comes in handy when the rest of the family gets into wild adventures in forests, swamps and deserts.

Yup, this 12-year-old travels all around the world with her family while her parents search for exotic and beautiful wild animals to film. Eliza has a secret, though: she can talk to animals. And this gets them into stranger and wackier situations.

In "The Wild Thornberrys Movie" Eliza finds the determination, courage and strength to overthrow a gang of poachers in Serengeti, Tanzania and save the wild animals from being killed.

Catch "The Wild Thornberrys Movie" in Metro Manila theaters on March 26!

Meet the Characters



Eliza

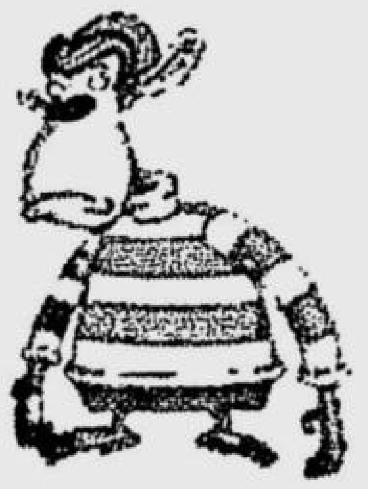
TWELVE-year-old Eliza Thornberry is used to plenty of adventures. After all, not only is she the child of world-famous documentary filmmakers, she also has a very special gift: she can talk to animals! Unfortunately, more often than not, Eliza's ability gets her into heaps of trouble. Which is just the case when she and her faithful chimp chum Darwin trot off into the wilds of the Serengeti with some new cheetah cub friends. When one of the cheetahs is cub-napped by poachers, Eliza's thrown into

Plucky/ p. 2

Plucky and Wild

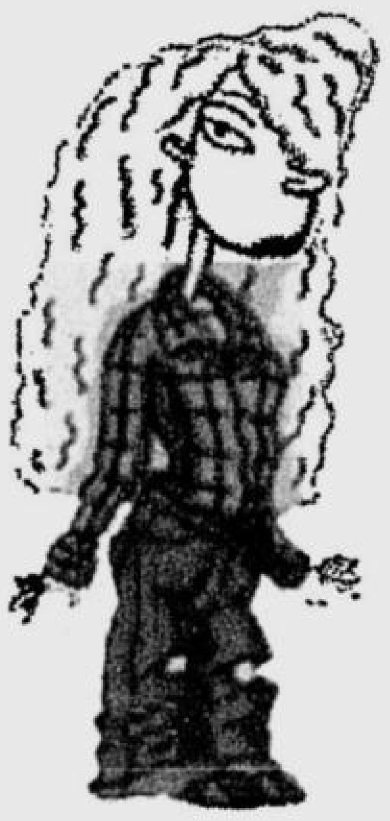
(from page 1)

her wildest adventure yet!



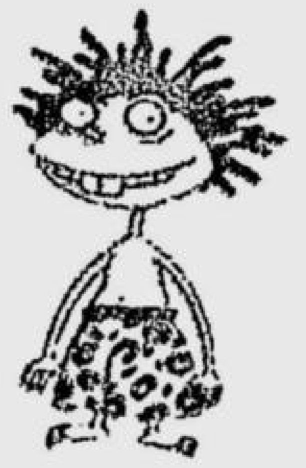
Darwin

Just another chattering chimp, but a beloved pet just the same. Darwin is Eliza's best friend and constant companion—mostly because she can actually understand the chattering.



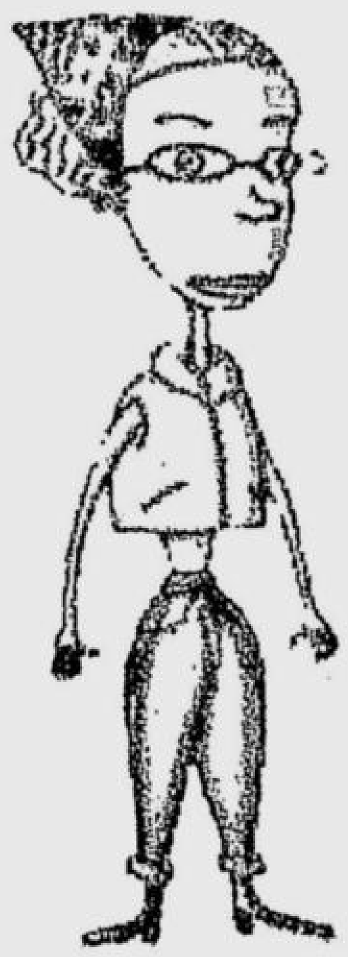
Debbie

Eliza's older sister Debbie is definitely not enthused about her life right now—another Serengeti safari means she'll have to miss even more parties, dances and other things that, hello, every teenager is, like, totally entitled to!



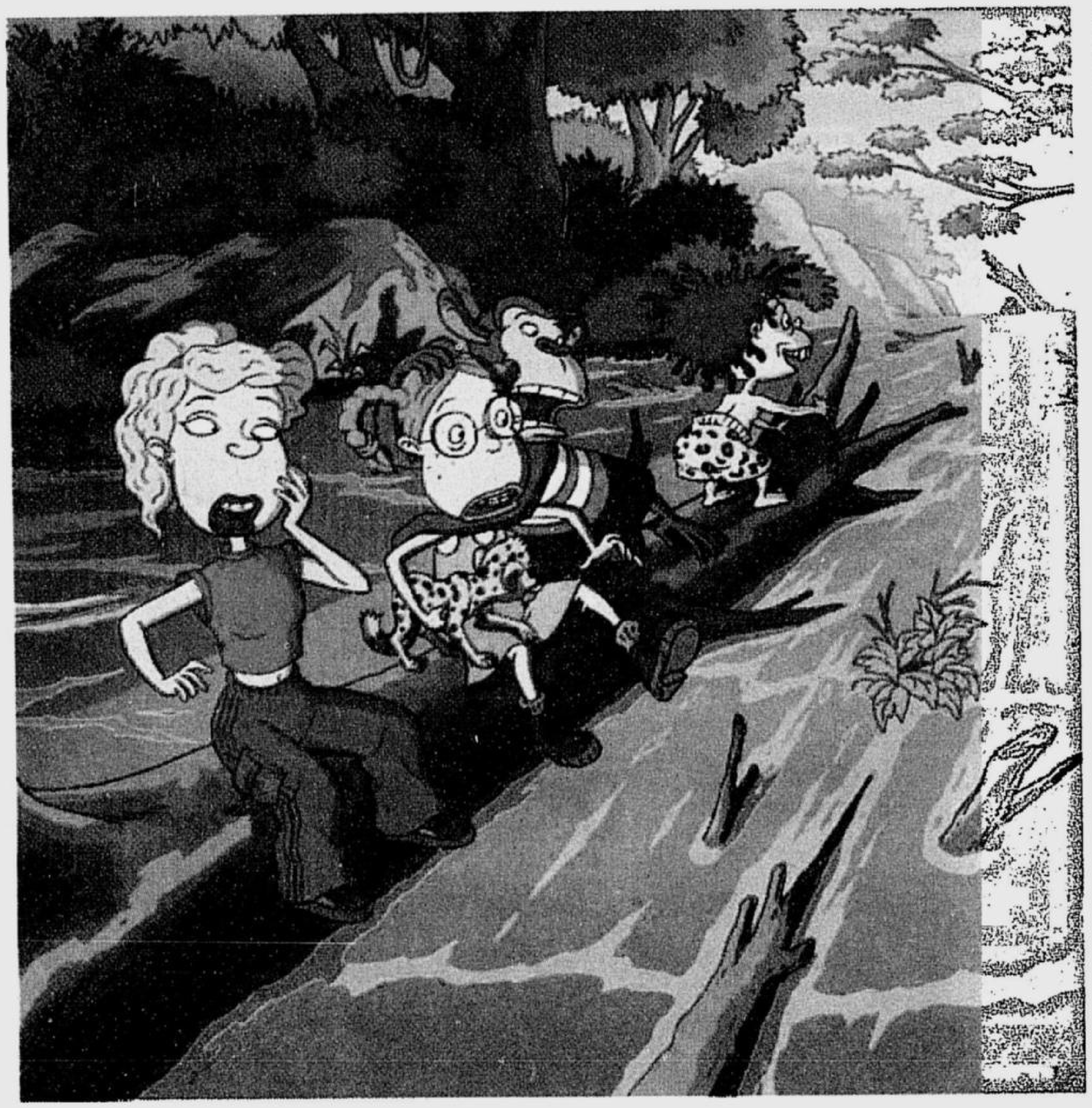
Donnie

The unofficial third Thornberry sibling was discovered in the untamed jungles of Borneo, and it shows. Somehow, despite his complete lack of manners, self-control, or, for that matter, English, he really fits in just perfectly. Which kind of makes sense—after all, they are the Wild Thornberrys.



Marianne

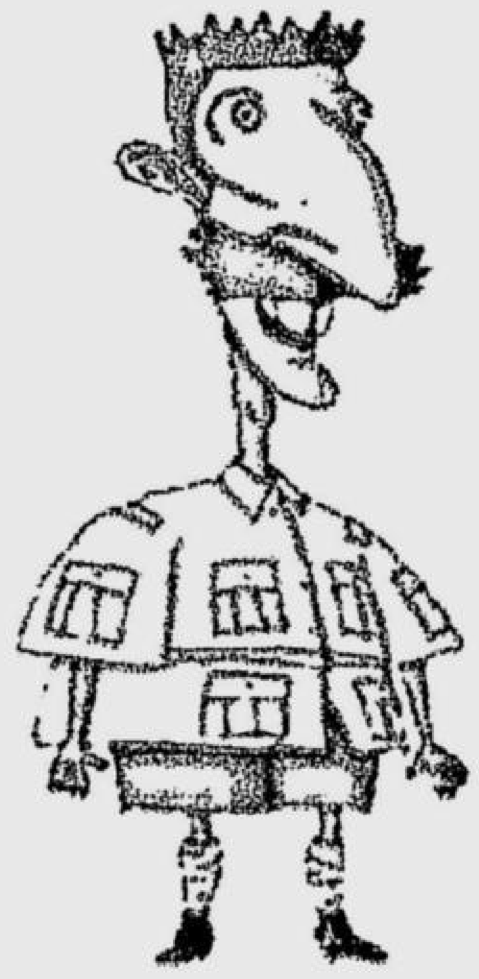
Mom, adventurer, teacher, and filmmaker. Under the most extreme circumstances, she's as cool as a cucumber sandwich—even when her beloved Eliza embarks on her latest quest: a solo adventure into the teeming, steaming Serengeti!



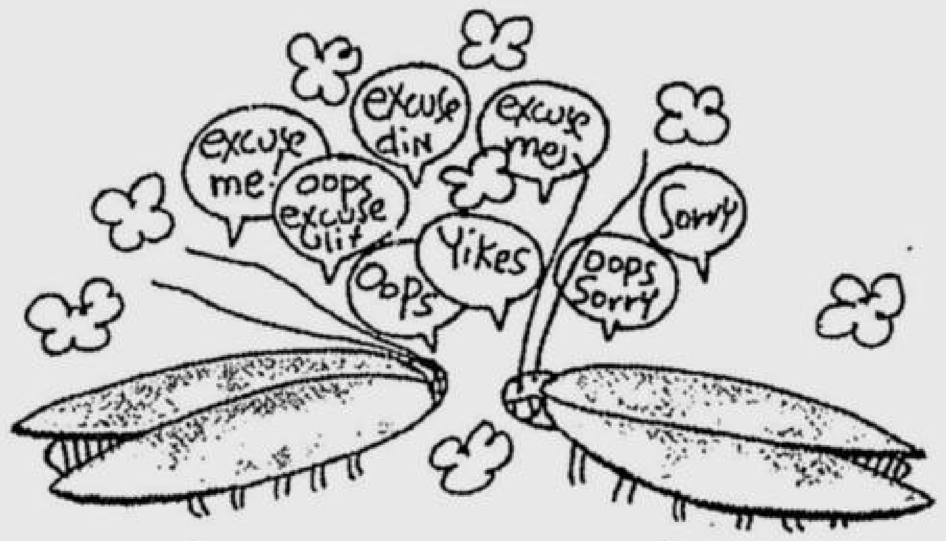
LACEY Chabert plays the voice of Eliza Thornberry

LEFT: AS always, Donnie is oblivious to danger.

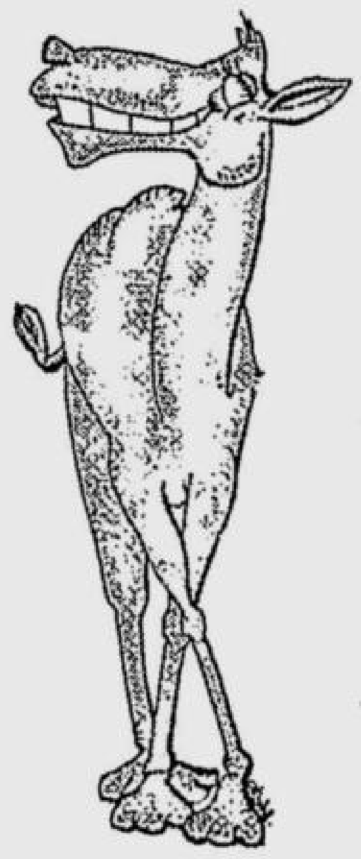
Nigel (Eliza & Debbie's father)



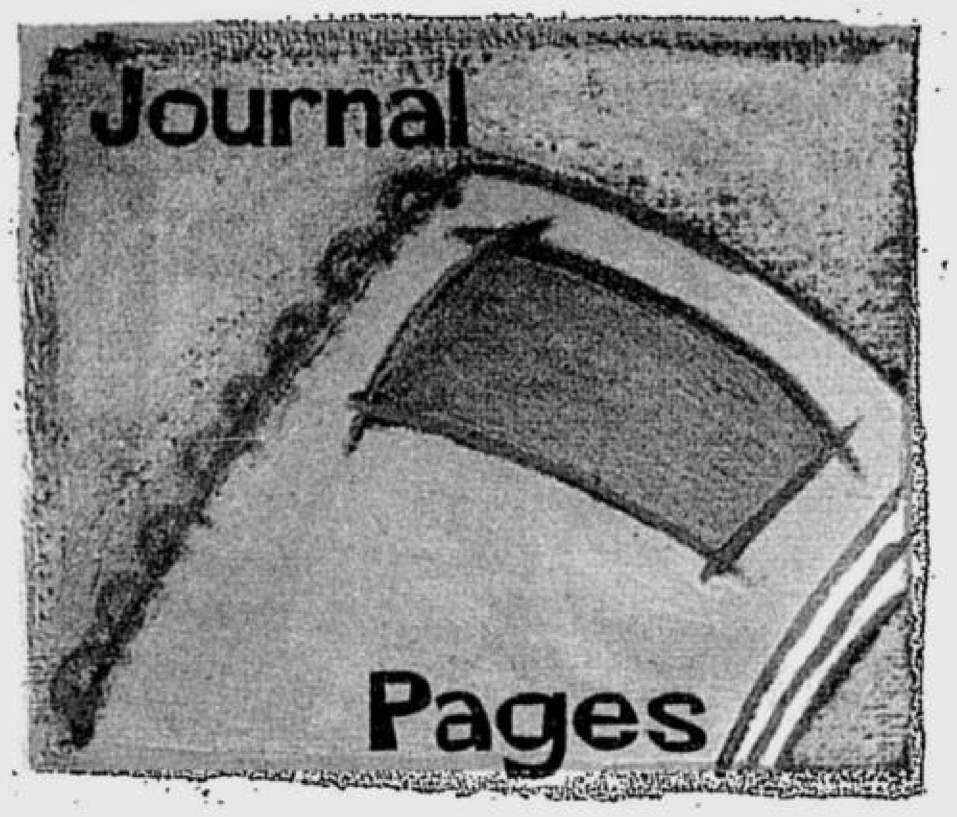
He's an award-winning filmmaker who's braved the wild all over the globe. But that doesn't mean Nigel Thornberry's got being a dad all figured out. His eldest, Debbie, is in the thick of teenage torment, and his other daughter, Eliza, always seems to be running off into the wilderness with a gaggle of beasts. Alas, Nigel seems to be oblivious to all the chaos. Thank goodness for his lovely and level-headed wife, Marianne!



Did you know that…



- Cockroaches fart every 15 minutes?
- Camels have three eyelids to protect themselves from blowing sand?
- "The Wild Thornberrys" is actually a cartoon series on cable TV's Nickelodeon Channel?



A Date with my Teacher

By Evora Lyn G. Tan
Tumauini North Central School, Isabela

WE always look forward to our town fiesta, here in Tumauini, Isabela. It's on February 24 and 25. Last year, our teacher said we should save our *baon* so we could spend it on whatever we wanted during fiesta. And when the day came, we all went together.

Going to the carnival was fun. We were disappointed, though, that there were no rides; only games of chance and some attractions.

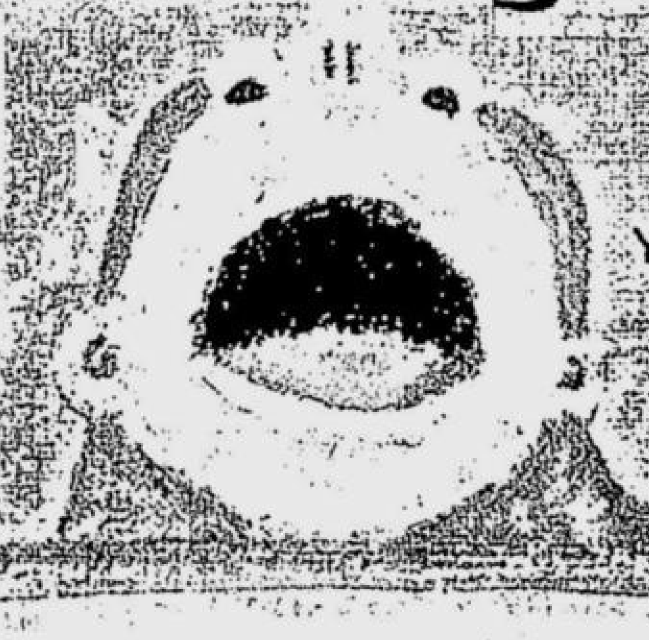
We checked out something called "The Great American Circus Show." We were so scared when we saw a man balancing his bike on a high wire. The man even covered his head at one point and carried another person. I thought they would fall. But nothing happened to them. We clapped our hands and laughed. After that, we watched something called Wheel of Suspense and Sphere of Terror then played a game of chance called ABC.

We also went to a videoke. My classmates Adelna, Alyssa, Katrin and Oliver sang a song each. Adelna's score was 90 when she sang "If We Hold On Together." She was Rank 1, but when she sang "Greatest Love of All," her score rose to 98. I forgot Alyssa, Katrin and Oliver's scores but I knew they were high but not higher than Adelna's score.

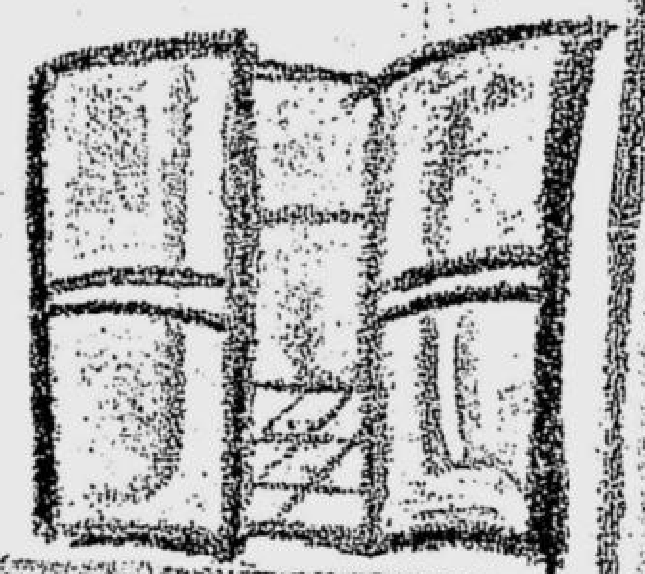
This was the first time I've ever gone to the carnival with my teacher and classmates. I would like to thank my teacher. Because of her idea, we had lots of fun. I will not forget this happy event.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight From JI Readers

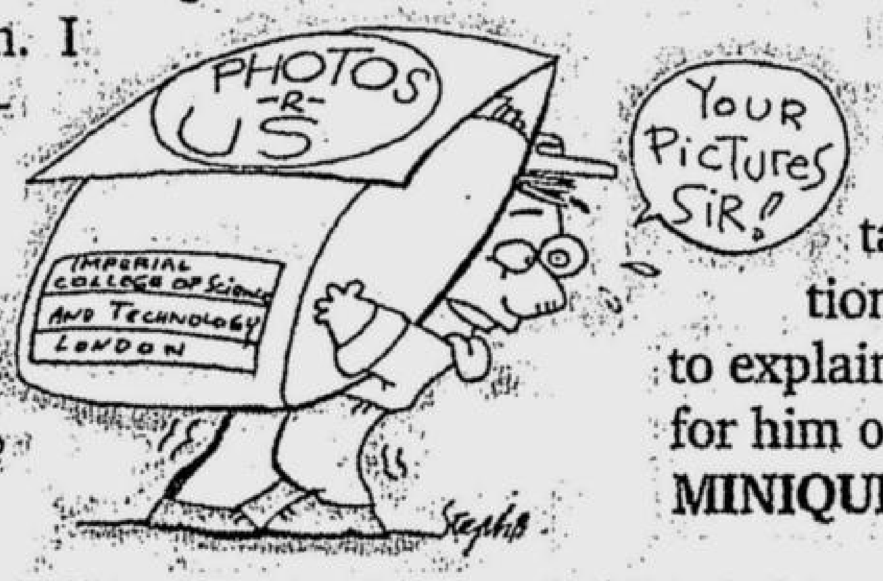


You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



A Camera Fact

HERE'S something for JUNIOR INQUIRER readers: Did you know that the world's fastest camera takes 33,000 million pictures every second? Yes. It belongs to the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London. I really love to take pictures that's why I sent you this trivia.—**LUIGY BOY H. STA. MARIA**, 9, Montessori School of Malolos, Bulacan.


PHOTOS -R- US
IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LONDON
YOUR PICTURES SIR!

Anime Violence

I AGREE with Michael Lopez's letter about anime violence (JI, Jan. 25, 2003). He's right. Not all kids imitate the violence shown in the anime shows. But still, parental guidance is needed especially if the child is a boy. Boys 6-11 play rough games after seeing boxing and fighting shows. And to parents, please take note of the shows' viewing classification. When you see "Parental Guidance," try to explain to your child that it might not be good for him or her to watch the show.—**NICOLE DOMINIQUE AUDREY F. DUNGO**, 9, Las Piñas City

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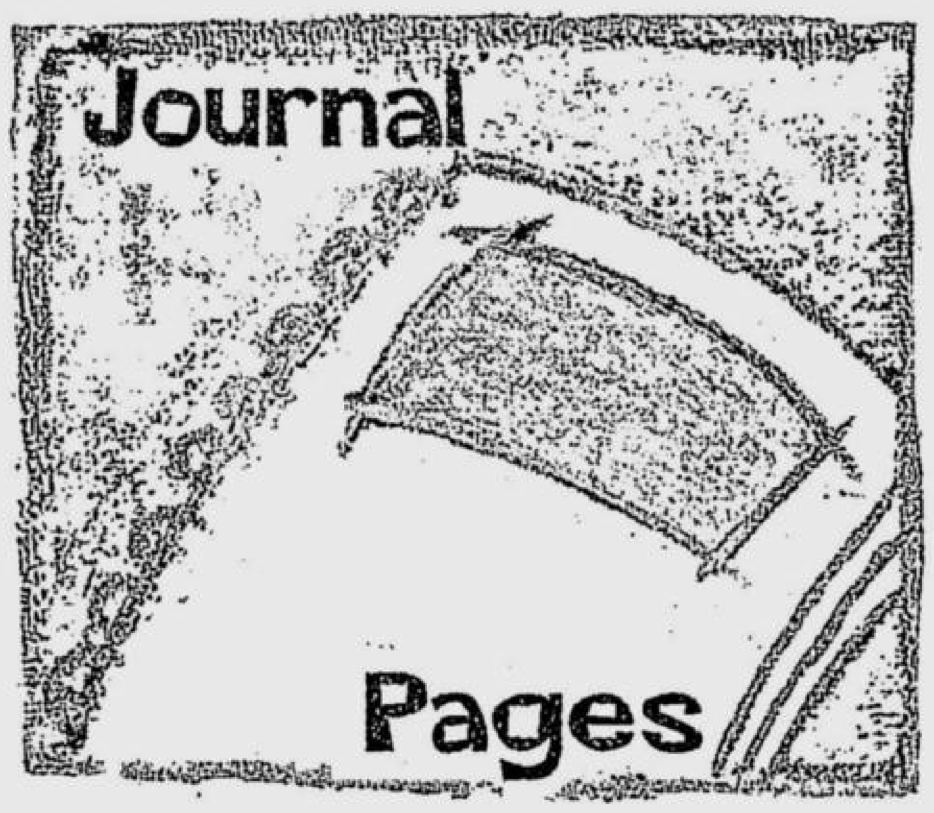

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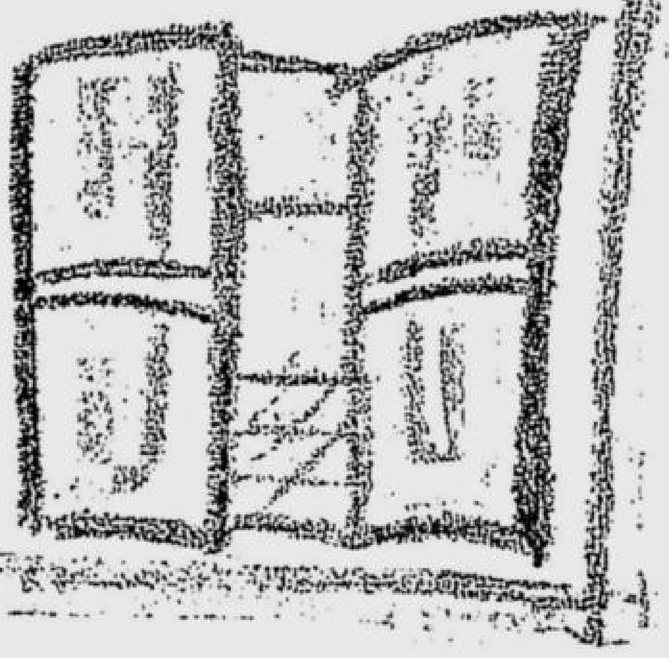
This was the first time I've ever gone to the carnival with my teacher and classmates. I would like to thank my teacher. Because of her idea, we had lots of fun. I will not forget this happy event.

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

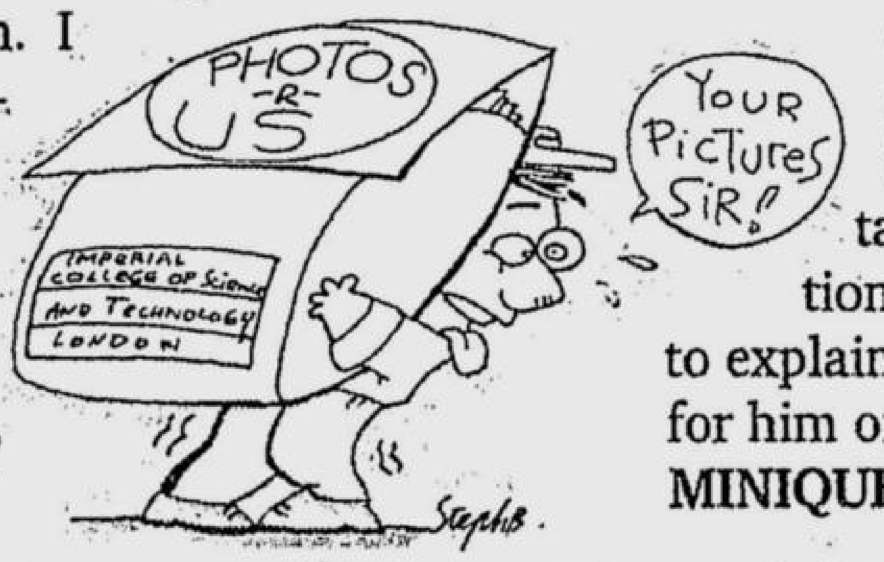
Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



A Camera Fact

HERE'S something for JUNIOR INQUIRER readers: Did you know that the world's fastest camera takes 33,000 million pictures every second? Yes. It belongs to the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London. I really love to take pictures that's why I sent you this trivia.—**LUIGY BOY H. STA. MARIA**, 9, Montessori School of Malolos, Bulacan


PHOTOS
-R-
US
IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LONDON
YOUR PICTURES SIR!
Steph8.

Anime Violence

I AGREE with Michael Lopez's letter about anime violence (JI, Jan. 25, 2003). He's right. Not all kids imitate the violence shown in the anime shows. But still, parental guidance is needed especially if the child is a boy. Boys 6-11 play rough games after seeing boxing and fighting shows. And to parents, please take note of the shows' viewing classification. When you see "Parental Guidance," try to explain to your child that it might not be good for him or her to watch the show.—**NICOLE DOMINIQUE AUDREY F. DUNGO**, 9, Las Piñas City

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FOR or By KIDS

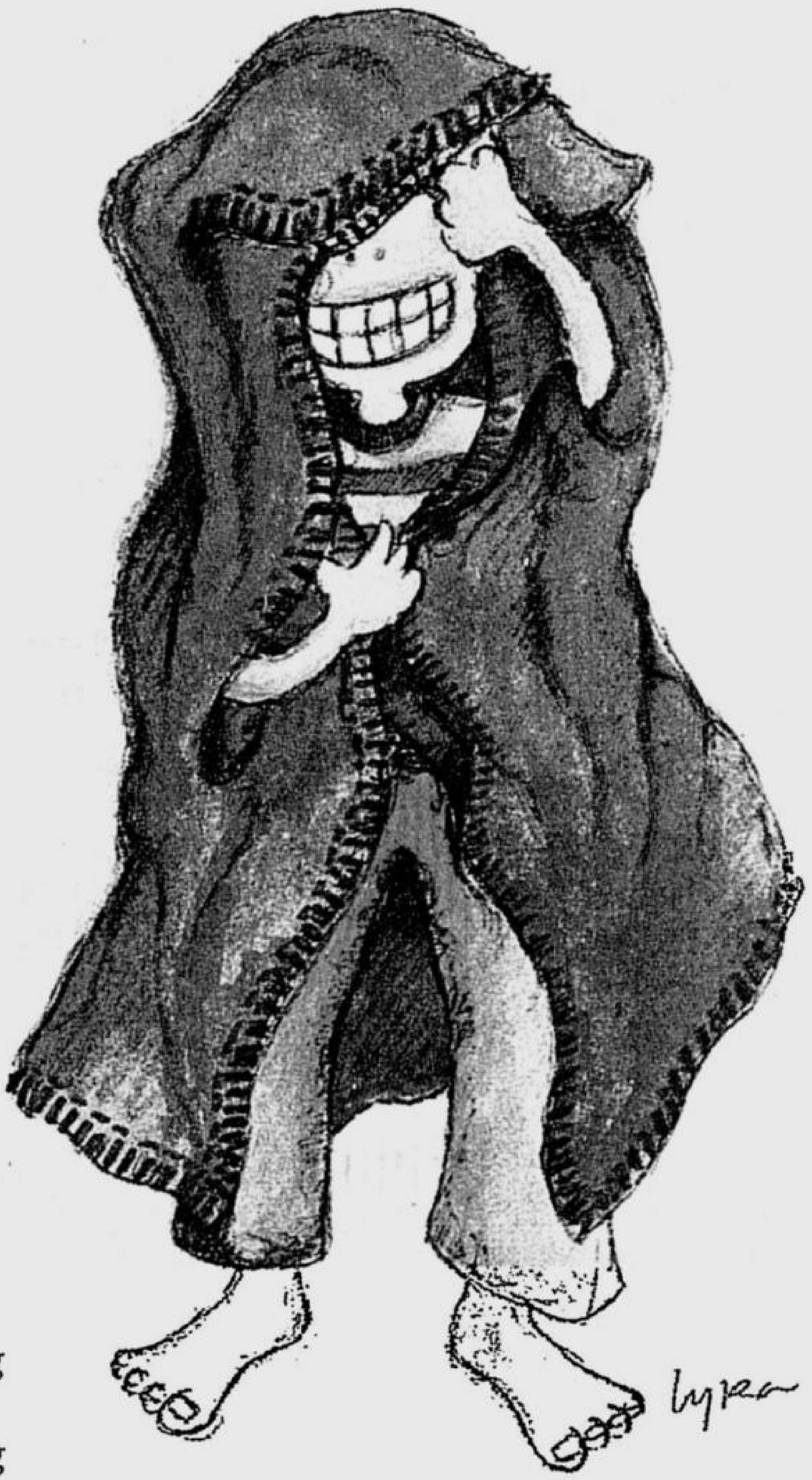
Mga Tula ni John Carlo Pineda Fernando
Guhit ni Lyra Garcellano

Sa Ilalim ng Kumot

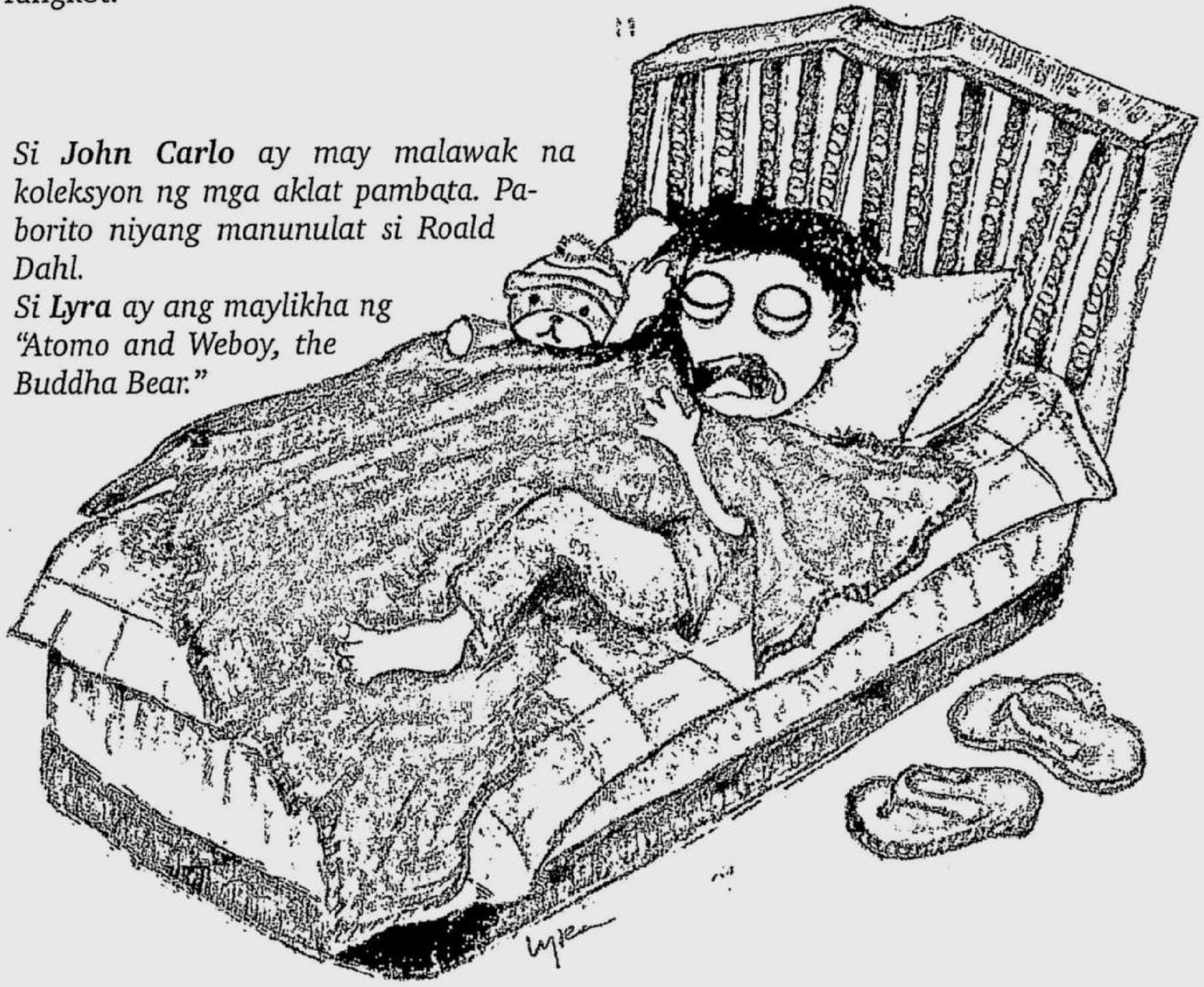
Ang kumot ay yumayakap sa akin
na isang diwata tuwing gabi.
Malambot, masarap haplusin,
at sa bango nito ako ay nalasing
at nakatulog nang mahimbing.

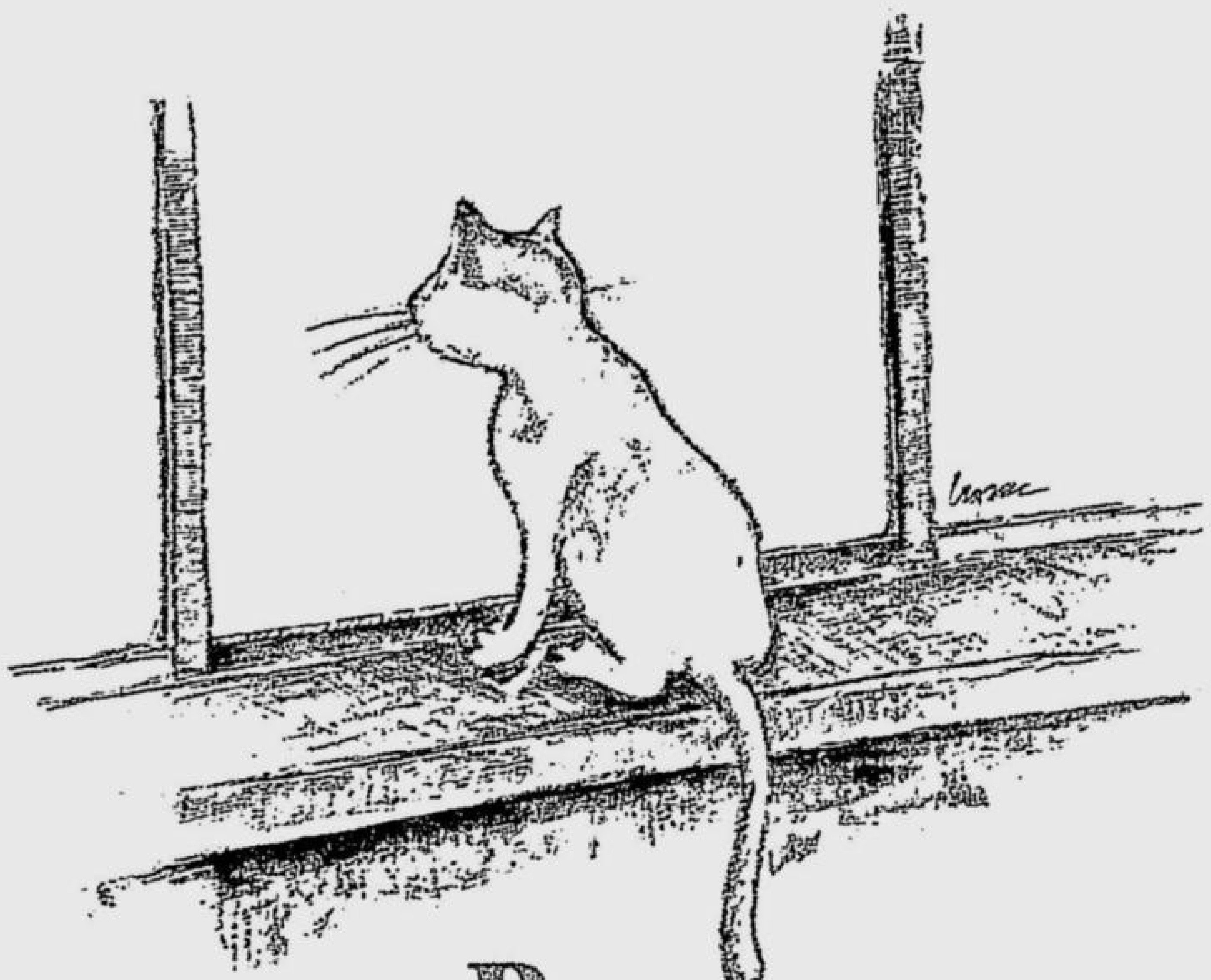
Nanaginip ako ng mga sirena,
ng tikbalang, duwende't mga aswang.
Sa ilalim ng kumot ako ay masaya
sa ibinigay na panaginip at pahinga.

Minsan sa panaginip ako'y naging isang kumot
at sa ibang bata'y nagtanggal ng lungkot.



*Si **John Carlo** ay may malawak na koleksyon ng mga aklat pambata. Paborito niyang manunulat si Roald Dahl.*
*Si **Lyra** ay ang maylikha ng "Atomo and Weboy, the Buddha Bear."*



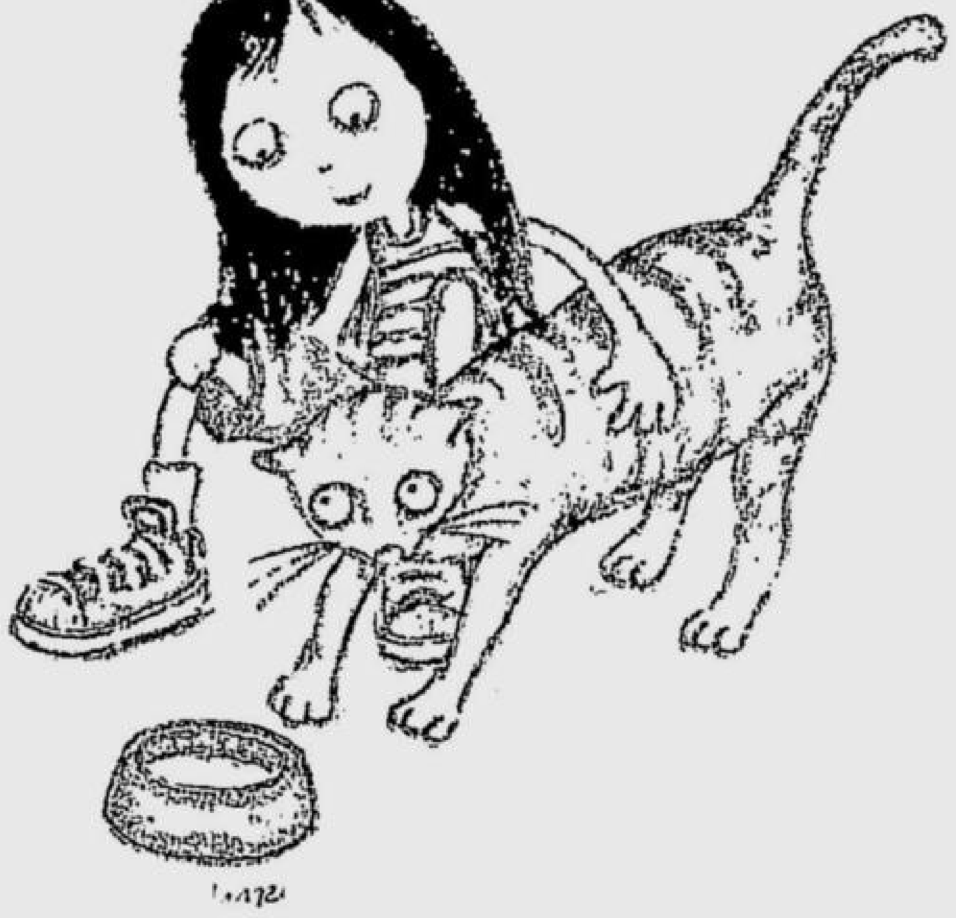


Pusa

Nakatingin
ako sa isang pusa
sa loob ng malaking bahay,
marahang dumidila ng gatas
sa isang platito
habang hinihimas ng batang
kayhaba ng buhok.

Umuulan
noon sa labas
at ako ay basa't nanginginig,
tatlong araw nang di kumakain
dahil walang huling
daga o makalkal na tira-tira
sa basurahan

Pagkatapos
kumain, kumaripas
ang pusa papunta sa ilalim
ng malaking itim na piano
habang ako'y naiwang
nagbibilang ng patak
ng tubig-ulan.



Power of Two

For Clarisse and Jappy, 7, bugs and butterflies are the coolest

By Margaux Ortiz

Kids 'r' rrific
INSECTS

INSECT lovers Clarisse and Jappy

BETOY JOHNSON

MANY kids and adults do not think highly of insects. Just say "creeping," "crawling" and "slimy" and all you'll hear is a resounding "Eeeeeeewwww!"

But a closer look at these "detestable" bugs reveal beauty that only Mother Nature can bestow upon each of her creatures. Just ask the Poblete twins.

Seven-year-old Clarisse Felicia and Jaime Alonzo Poblete's favorite pastime is going to their garden or to the empty lot beside their house to look for insects.

Clarisse's favorite are butterflies. "I like them because they are pretty," she enthuses. "I especially like the owl butterfly because it has beautiful markings on its wings."

Her twin brother Jappy, on the other hand, prefers beetles. "Because of the way they defend themselves especially when they do battle to get food or fight over a mate," he says with a serious expression on his face.

He adds that one of his dreams is traveling to Africa and seeing the Goliath beetle, "one of the largest beetle species in the world."

Kid Entomologists

It is clear what the Poblete twins, both first grade students at the De La Salle Zobel School in Alabang, want to be when they grow up. Jappy says he is going to be an entomologist while Clarisse dreams of being a butterfly scientist.

"Each time I catch an insect, I write down its description in my journal," shares Jappy. "I record its size, weight, color, markings and behavior."

"After I study them, I set them free in their natural habitat," he adds.

Clarisse helps her twin in his mission to identify all the bugs they see. She is as excited as her brother about a caterpillar they caught a week earlier. Jappy predicts that it is going to metamorphose anytime soon.

"I hope it's going to be a butterfly," Clarisse excitedly says.

"Based on its markings, I think it's going to be either a butterfly or a beetle," Jappy scientifically points out.

(The cocoon became a moth days after. Close one, Jap.)

"They make grown-ups around them look at insects with fresh eyes," says their dad Albert. "While others see bugs as 'creepy' and 'yucky,' the twins point out how pretty this bug is because of its colors or how lucky they are they found a bug that is rarely seen everyday."

So the next time you see beetles, bees and spiders flying or crawling around in your garden, think twice before you ignore or even worse, step on them. Do what the Poblete twins do: look at these creatures as if seeing them for the first time and marvel at how unique and beautiful each one is.

R RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kid 'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate:______________________
____

Age: ____________________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
____
____
____
____
____
____
____
____

She/he lives at __________________
____
____

and studies at ___________________
____

Her/his contact number is: ______
____

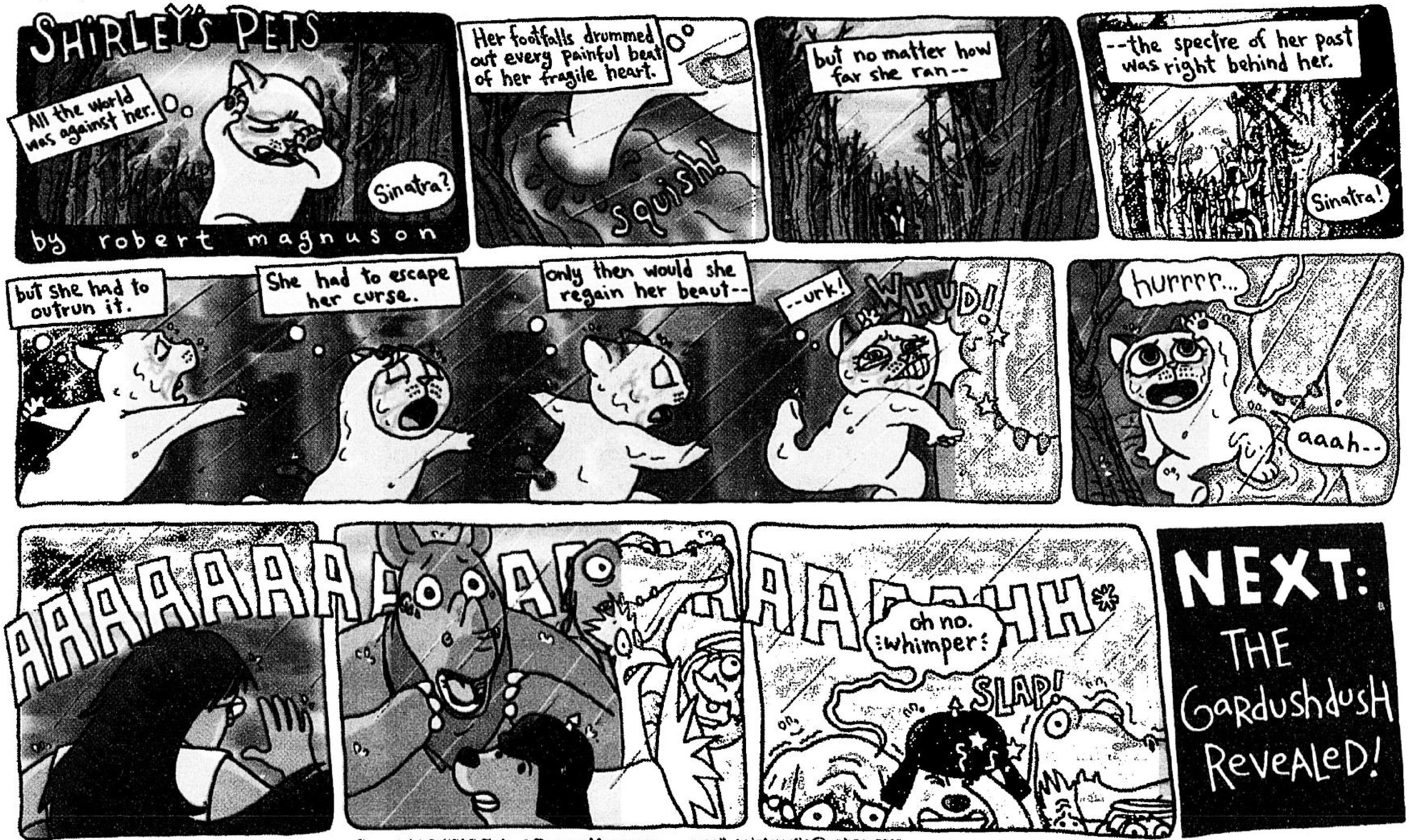
Sender's Name: __________________
____

Sender's Age & School:___________
____

Sender's Address: _______________
____

Sender's Contact No. ____________
____

Last Episode: Thinking that she has lost her beauty for good, Sinatra escapes into the woods in dramatic despair. Shirley, however is in hot pursuit. Right behind them is the rival animal team led by Pancho who will stop at nothing until he has the special ring that Sinatra is wearing...


SHIRLEY'S PETS
by robert magnuson
All the world was against her.
Sinatra?
Her footfalls drummed out every painful beat of her fragile heart.
squish!
but no matter how far she ran--
--the spectre of her past was right behind her.
Sinatra!
but she had to outrun it.
She had to escape her curse.
only then would she regain her beaut--
--urk!
WHUD!
hurrrr...
aaah--
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHH
oh no. whimper
SLAP!
NEXT: THE GARDUSHDUSH REVEALED!

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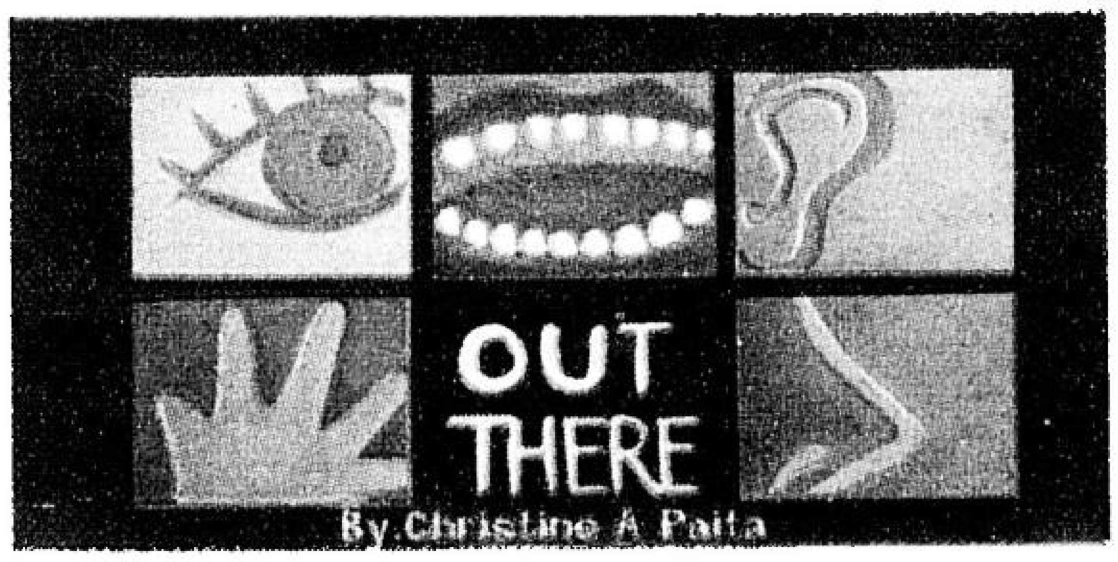

OUT THERE
By Christine A Paita

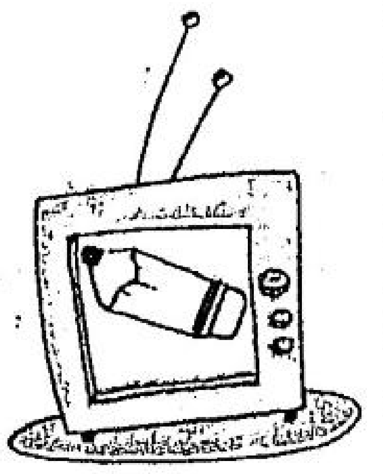
Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax number is 897-4794, and our e-mail address is pr_junior_inquirer@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

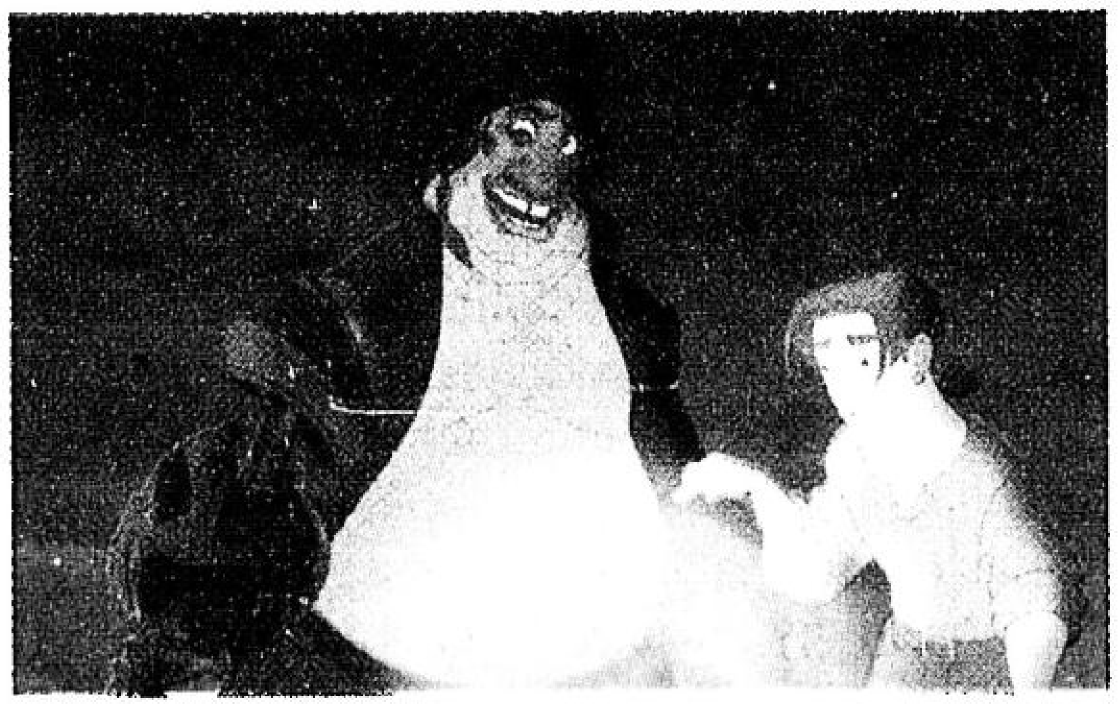
Workshop

ESCUELA SA MUSEO. Kids who love anime can now learn the basics of animation with the new four-session **Anime drawing workshop**, every Saturday, from March 1-22, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. There's also the Digital Art workshop where kids learn the techniques behind creating digital paintings. This workshop runs from March 1-April 5, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Both workshops will be held at the Ayala Museum in Glorietta 2, Makati City. Interested parties may also register at the Ayala Museum in Glorietta 2. For inquiries, please call Christy Monastrial at 810-8407, visit www.ayalamuseum.com, or send an e-mail to inquiry@ayalamuseum. com.

Contest

FOR YOUNG ARTISTS. If you're in high school, between ages 12 and 18, you can join Likhang Sining, an **on-the-spot painting competition** at the Ayala Museum Galleries on March 1. Entrants must be sponsored by a Rotary Club or an INTERACT Club of the school where he or she is presently enrolled, and must be endorsed by the principal or art teacher. Entry forms are available at the nearest Rotary office or at the Ayala Museum, 3rd Level Glorietta 2, Makati City. For details, please call Katrina Tungol of Ayala Museum at 813-4485 or Amy Famatigan, Rotary Club Makati West Secretariat, at 753-3098. You may also submit your entry forms through fax numbers 840-1588 or 845-1655.





JIM Hawkins (R) and John Silver are part of a crew in a space galleon in Walt Disney's latest animation feature, "Treasure Planet." "Treasure Planet" opens in theaters on Feb. 26.

YOU'RE INVITED TO MY BIRTHDAY PARTY!

SESAME STREET

Congratulations to All "Color Me Elmo" Winners.
See You at SM Megamall, Atrium on Feb. 23.

Registration is from 1pm - 2:30pm.
Activities start at 3pm and end at 6pm.

Charyn Mae Lim • Ma. Colleen S. Espinosa • Eunice Cruzabra • Alyssa Anne Guerra • Christine Myer V. Tuazon • Daphne Chan • Karen B . Faller • Denise Anne G. Villasper • Marie Louise Abel M. Rivera • Mara Danielle D. Espeleta • Kimani A. Barraquias • Ian Buenaventura L. Panaligan • Anton Miguel Suba • Angelica S. Periobras • Mika Ella Lorenz V. Andon • Shiney S. Ronquillo • Divina Marie N. Labaclado • Abegail Galvez • Angelika Batosalem • Annelle Bantolino • Richard Joseph Dela Cerna • Jonathan Mendoza • Patricia Aquino • Eujan Gazzingan • LJ Alegado • Raine Kristel R. Magdamit • Darrence Matthew Tanhuy • Andrea Jeane Tibayan • John Wency Cyrus Eugenio • Julieanne M. Fernandez • Carlo Miguel T. Lopez • Beatrice Angeline G. Miguel • Patricia Daezel O. Tenorio • Liane Angeli Rabuya • Ian Edrick R. Manuel • Rochelle Mae Dela Cruz • Juliana Maxine C. Vazquez • Bernadette Joy I. Cruz • Jamie H. Esquivel •Patrick John Hufalar • Francis Marie Japitana • Isabel Sophia Albor • Mary Kindra Winonah Salvador • Pamela Francia Tanwangco • Amiel Kes Ira F. Maturan • Margarita F. Fajardo • Royce Ann Carmel G. Ramos • Michael D. L. Tan • Jan Alessandra Dannah Santillan • Errol I. Cantimpo • Marlow Q. Canaman • Mark Lazaro • Miguel S. Siongco • Quennie G. Sering • Jegy G. Sering • Joshua Rafael T. Borja • Anna Louise S. Gamboa • Alain Caesar N. Torre • Edwina Marie V. Diaz • Shadralyn Onyx A. Mazaredo • Charles Jourdan V. Gonzales • Norman Mark V. Manulit • Justin Manalang • Adrian Tenaja • Ma. Vivianne T. Villavicencio • Frances Nicole Floresca • Zebediah M. Javier • Faith S. Julio • Jamie Celine Q. Sanoy • Jicelle Angelica Q. Sanoy • Kaye Janelle Yao • Kimberly Sofia Carlota • Julia Beatriz Averia • Steven T. Bayaua • Abigail Reyes • Aubrey Nicole L. Arboleda • Andrew Ray S. Hornshaw • Mary Renz Carla L. Salomon • Mark Anthony G. Valencia • Bea Aleta • Boj Aleta • Kahil Alentajan • Brian Bustamante • Veronique Nuqui • Joey F. Cabugao • Raffi Armena • Robyn Armena • Jaye Aleta • Jorel Aleta • Fras Cui • Martin Cui • Toby Ayuyao • Juancho Castro • Bianca Daez • Teddy Diaz • Mariana Gutierrez • Patricia Ildesa • Miko Lukban • Kiano Oposa • Tomas Puno • Joshua Torres • Anica Villanueva • Marga Gonzalez • Anton Gonzalez

Exciting Activities Open to the Public

Registration is from 10am - 10:30am.
Activities end at 12:30pm.

PUREFOODS
Pork & Beans
Pork & Beans
Hotdog & Beans
Corned Beef & Beans
Pork & Beans

A-OK kasama sa Sarap at Saya!

SM DEPARTMENT STORES
We've got it all for you!

PUREFOODS HORMEL
The Purefoods-Hormel Company

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THE LUNCH BOX

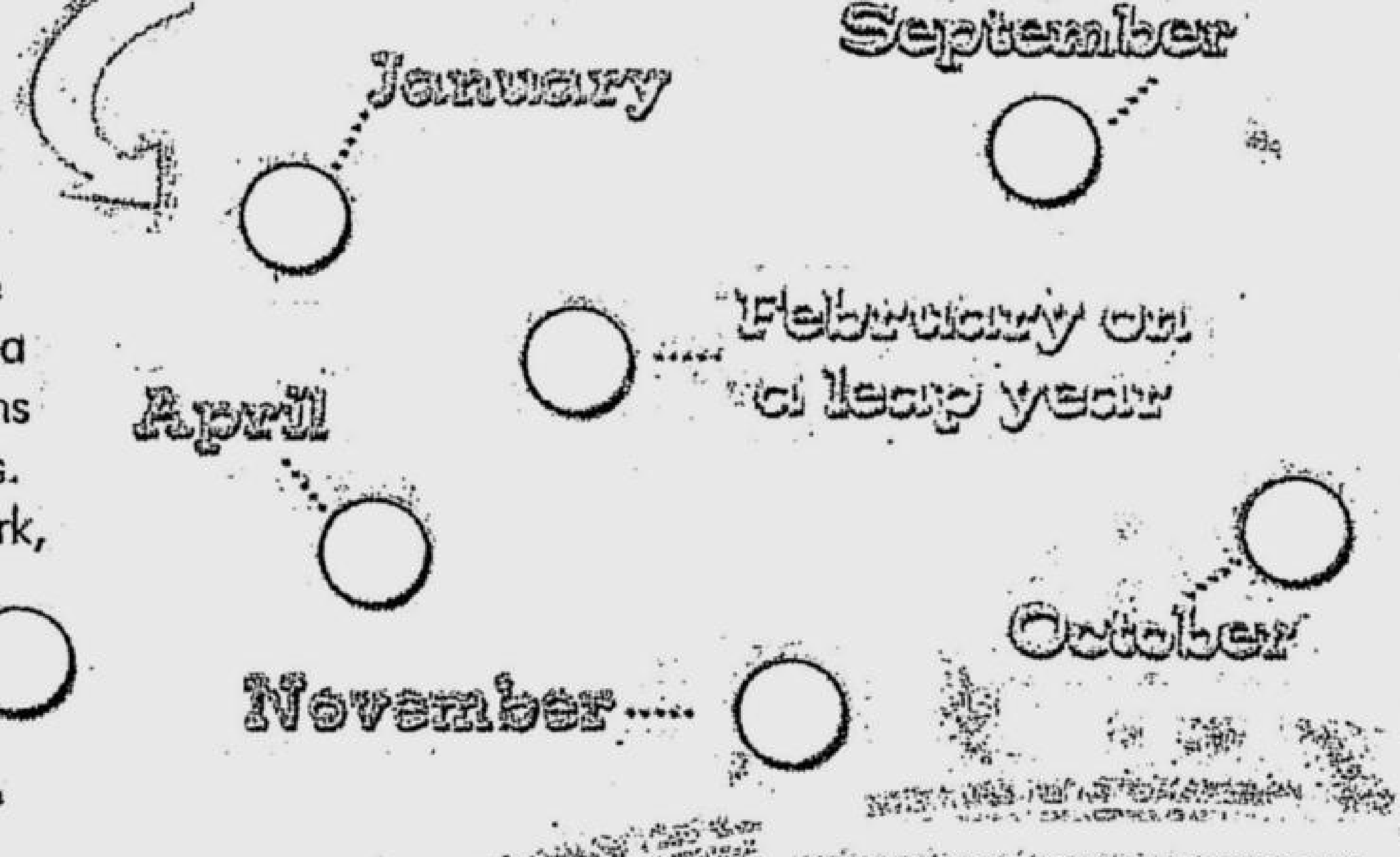
by Katrina B. Villa

Waaait a minute.. Doesn't February have only 28 days?

Riiight. But in 1931 there was a February 30 in the former Soviet Union. The Soviets were working on a plan to give all 12 months the same number of days. The idea didn't really work, though.

Is it February 30 yet?

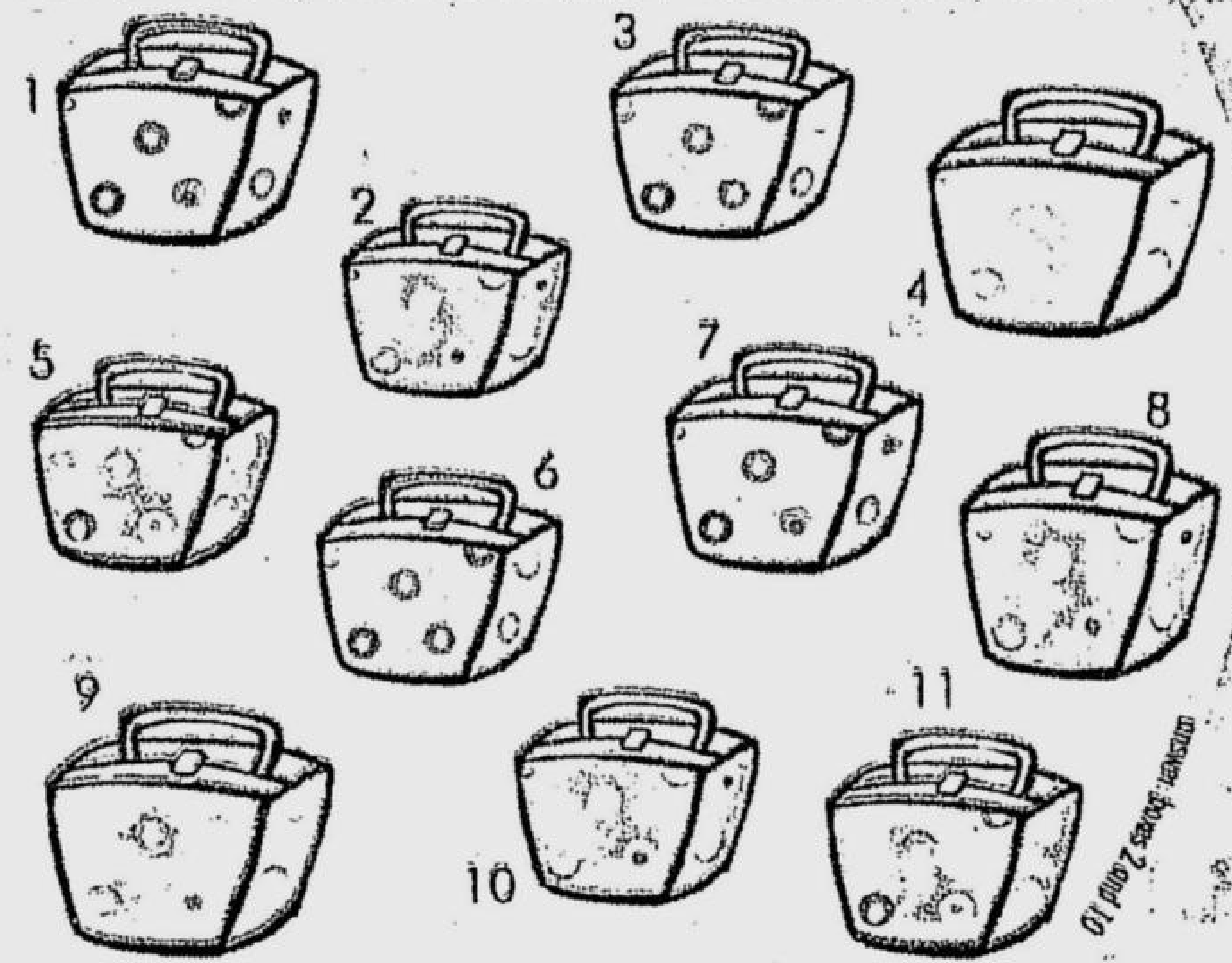
How many days does each of these months have? Fill in the blanks!


January
September
February on a leap year
April
October
November
May

Answers: 30 for April, September, November; 31 for January, May, October; 29 for February on a leap year.

SPOT LUNCH!

Find the two spotted lunch boxes that are exactly alike!


1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11

answer: boxes 2 and 10

the official LUNCH BOX VOCABULARY

Make up your own words! [illegible]

☐ Candy that has melted in its wrapper.

☐ The high-pitched hum that a mosquito makes in your ear.

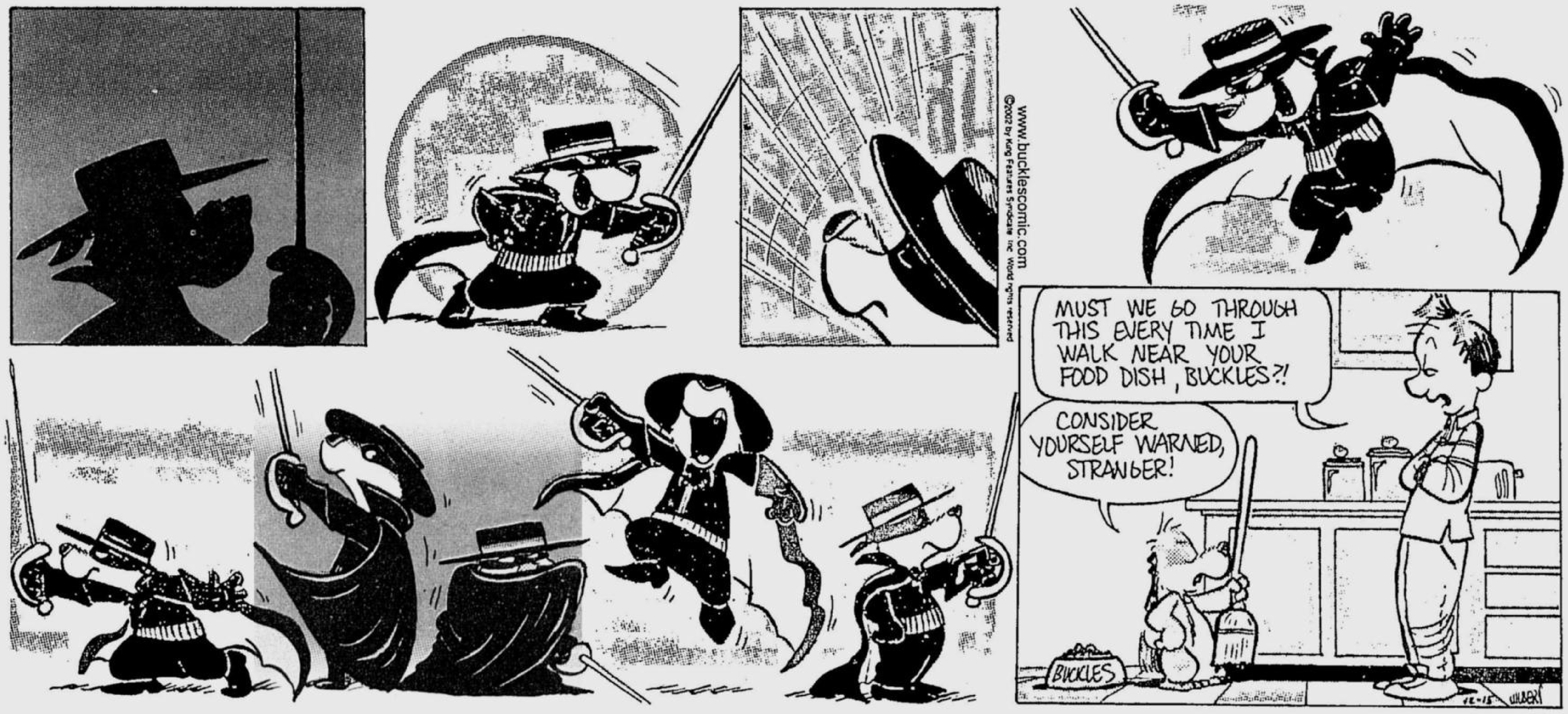
☐ The ability to burp very, very quietly.

Poufologist

Person with very high, fluffy hair.

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


MUST WE GO THROUGH THIS EVERY TIME I WALK NEAR YOUR FOOD DISH, BUCKLES?!
CONSIDER YOURSELF WARNED, STRANGER!
BUCKLES
12-15
GILBERT

www.bucklescomic.com

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